

# Just Jane

JANE O'GORMAN SOLVES YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY AND EVERY DAY

## Lover's Xmas blues

I'VE been having an affair with a married man for seven months. Now I don't know how I'm going to get through Christmas.

We normally meet four times a week and I keep busy on the other nights. But I won't be able to see him for about 10 days and that's the longest since we met.

In the summer he didn't go away with his family for a holiday but said that he had to work. We spent an idyllic week together. But at Christmas he can't make that excuse.

We really love each other, so do you think that I'll still be in the same position next year, or will he leave her?

**JANE SAYS:** I don't think he has any intention of leaving his wife and family.

And why should he? He's got you for excitement and his wife for a family life...in fact he's got it all.

At the same time you have got nothing except a few stolen moments. I doubt very much that he'll leave his wife.

And unless you can bear the holiday times like Christmas and know you can't actually go anywhere together, you'll have to weigh up whether it's worth being with him in the long run.

## MY LESBIAN SEX DREAMS

I'VE been with my bloke for five years now and it's the longest time I've ever been with one person.

I've never cheated on him, but now I'm finding our love life really boring. It's just the same old thing every other night.

He rolls towards me in bed and says: "How about it?"

I always say "Great", and then he starts to fondle me for about five minutes before leaping on top.

Afterwards, he says "You're gorgeous", I say "Thanks" and then he

rolls off and goes to sleep. I've tried to inject some excitement into it, but he won't do anything adventurous, and I'm only talking about different positions.

So I've now started to think about touching and being touched by other women.

As soon as I get into bed I shut my eyes and start to fantasise about being naked with two or three other women who touch, kiss and lick me.

It certainly gets me excited, but I'm getting worried that I should be

thinking about other guys instead.

I haven't told my boyfriend about this, and I wonder if I should.

**JANE SAYS:** Don't worry about it and don't feel you have to confess.

Your fantasies are your own business and you shouldn't feel guilty about them.

It's quite natural to let your mind wander and the fact that you are thinking about other women doesn't mean you're a lesbian. Frankly if it makes you

excited, then great, because your sex life sounds dire, so it's no wonder that your mind has found something sensual to focus on.

Although you've tried to get your boyfriend going he doesn't seem very receptive, whatever you do.

I think you are just going to have to make him see that there's more to making love than the same old thing every night.

Listen to my relevant advice line and insist that he shapes up.

# Slob wife is big turn-off

**I GOT married last year and it was the biggest mistake I've ever made.**

I'd split up with my previous girlfriend because she got a job in Australia.

We both knew we could never have a long distance relationship.

It was devastating for both of us, but I knew I had to just get on with it. Then I met another girl who I thought was great.

We got married within seven

months, but now I'm revolted by her. She is grumpy, messy, bossy and disgusting.

She burps and farts all the time and thinks it's hilarious.

**Horrible**

When I ask her to stop it she just tells me that I'm boring and don't know how to have a laugh.

She wasn't like this at all when we first met, but now it's got so bad that I dread having to have sex with her. But she demands that I perform

sexually in a way that I don't like and it's horrible.

All I can think of is my ex girlfriend.

My best mate has now told me she's due to fly back home for Christmas and is probably not going back to Oz. I'm doing my best to keep my marriage going.

But if I know my ex is back home I don't know if I can keep going.

**JANE SAYS:** It sounds to me that you are flogging a dead horse. I think you married your wife on the rebound and now you are suffering the fallout.

You're clearly not compatible and even though you are trying your best it's just not going to work.

You've told your wife that you'd like her to stop burping and farting thinking it might make a difference to how you feel about her.

But it seems to me that even if she did make a bit of an effort, it wouldn't change how you feel.

Your situation isn't helped by the fact that you are still in love with your ex and you are clearly comparing your wife to her.

It's obvious that you have lost any special feelings that you may have had for your wife.

Actually getting back to the place you were with her before your marriage is very hard, especially as you have someone else in your thoughts.

At the end of the day all you can do is your best.

If then your marriage is still not the relationship you want it to be, it may be best to call it a day.

Sometimes things don't work out how we want them to, despite our best efforts.

## Brother's girl has hots for me

MY brother is really in love with his new girlfriend but she keeps coming on to me.

When he goes out of the room she runs her hand up my thigh.

I've had to grasp her wrist to stop her touching me intimately.

She has also stuck her tongue in my ear and once made sure we got stuck in a doorway where she pressed herself against me.

When I tell her to stop she just laughs and says "Come on you

know you want to". I don't and no matter how many times I've told her she ignores me.

I have no idea what my brother sees in her, but he'd be very upset if he knew what she was like.

I'm dreading her coming round at Christmas.

I don't want my brother to be hurt. Do you think I should tell him?

**JANE SAYS:** You've got to ask

yourself, if you were in the same position would you want to know?

If the answer is yes tell him, but be prepared for your brother to accuse you of being jealous.

It might be best if you just warned him on the quiet without going into gory details.

And at Christmas just make sure you're not left in the same room as she is and always keep some distance between you.

## WE SPOILT CHRISTMAS

Day Two

EARLIER THAT DAY



Hi, Ben here...oh hi Mum...yes we'd love to...I'll tell Marie...no, I'm sure it will be fine

BEN GOES BACK TO WATCHING THE FOOTBALL



Christmas with my folks and Marie - great!



I wish Marie would get home from shopping... oh there she is now

BEN HAS A QUICK FANTASY



CONTINUES TOMORROW

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To have a problem answered on this page, write to JUST JANE, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN







# It's the business

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything. Mark Twain

## Movers & groovers

**THE** parent group of two investment firms embroiled in the split-cap investment trust debate said yesterday they would not be taking part in a settlement deal being brokered by the City regulator.

The Financial Services Authority is believed to be close to reaching a £200 million deal to compensate investors who are estimated to have lost as much as £600m in the split-cap scandal.

But iimia said its subsidiaries Exeter Asset Management and Exeter Fund managers would be "unable to participate" in any such agreement. It blamed uncertainty as to how a deal would affect Exeter's creditors.

**RENE** Medori, finance director of gas giant **BOC Group** is moving to the world of mining.

He has accepted the role of finance director for **Anglo American** and will leave BOC at the end of next May after 17 years with the group. Medori will take over from Tony Lea.

**THE** electricity output of embattled nuclear energy group **British Energy** is set to improve.

The group announced yesterday that one unit at each of its nuclear power stations, **Hartlepool** and **Heysham 1**, had returned to service and it expected the remaining units to be back in service soon.

**GERMAN** firms are falling behind their British and French counterparts when it comes to growth.

Only seven German companies made it into the European Business Magazine's Hot 100 ranking of fast-growth businesses, compared with 33 British and 21 French companies.

The magazine's January issue claimed this was because German companies had lost the will to win.

**MARTIN** Read, the chief executive of **LogicaCMG**, the IT consultancy and text message software firm, has promoted **Jim McKenna** to be his chief operating officer. McKenna, who was already on the main board as UK and Ireland chief executive, takes over the day-to-day running of the whole group.

THE DEALER

## HOT GOSSIP

**BID** favourite Durex condom maker **SSL International** eased 3p to 275p yesterday despite suggestions it could be on the shopping list of German cosmetics group **Beiersdorf**. Traders noted the recent fundraising as a signal that an acquisition was on the cards.

## Rebels end MyTravel fight

**MYTRAVEL's** controversial £800 million debt restructuring to secure the company's future will go ahead after it struck a last-minute deal with rebel bondholders.

The bondholders accepted a deal giving them 8% of the company post-restructuring

late on Sunday night, just hours ahead of the two sides clashing in the High Court over the rescue package.

**MyTravel**, the former **Airtours**, offered bondholders 8% in November under plans for a "consensual restructuring". But the bondholders, led

by **Societe Generale**, **Lehman Brothers**, **Fidelity Investments** and **New Star** decided to contest the restructuring, arguing it compromised their rights.

Bondholders will meet to approve the compromise deal on December 29.

## WHO'S DEALING

**SHARES** in property group **Slough Estates** firmed 4p to 515.5p yesterday after chief executive **Ian Coull** topped up his holding. Coull picked up 10,000 shares at 512p to increase his stake to 28.327. Finance director **Richard Kingston** exercised options over 96,853 shares.

# Sharks hunted

## LENDERS IN PROBE

by TONY LEONARD

**BRITAIN'S £2 billion door-to-door lending industry is under investigation.**

The Competition Commission yesterday began checks into whether hundreds of thousands of people have been overcharged for their loans.

The Office of Fair Trading said it had decided to refer to the home credit industry for further investigation after its own inquiries - and complaints it had received - made it suspect there was not enough competition.

There are 500 home loan suppliers but 70% of the market's hogged by four firms. The biggest player is **Provident Financial**, dominating nearly half of the market. The other three are **Catties**, **London Scottish Bank** and **S&U**.

### Trouble

The OFT said: "Competition among home credit lenders appears to be restricted, with lenders having limited incentive to compete on price or to attempt to win business by taking over other lenders' loans."

This is partly because people who take out loans are often in financial trouble and so in a poor bargaining position, the OFT said.

They also have difficulty in shopping around to compare the deals they are being offered.

Competition can also be restricted by collectors building up relationships with customers, making them unlikely to switch lenders.

About one in 20 adults took out a home loan last year and in all borrowers owe about £2 billion in home loans.

These tend to be small cash sums, around £200.



## Tasty deal for Diageo

**DIAGEO**, the owner of **Smirnoff** vodka, **Johnnie Walker** whisky and **Guinness**, has shrugged down upmarket American wine maker **Chalone** in a deal worth \$260 million (£134m).

The drinks giant believes the vineyard will fit in with existing US wine operations, which, like **Chalone**, are based in the world-famous **Napa Valley** wine region in California.

Its shares rose 3p to 731.5p.

## Furse takes stock of bid

A BIDDING war is expected to erupt over the **London Stock Exchange**.

Rival group **Euronext** confirmed it was considering a counter offer to **Deutsche Boerse's** £1.35 billion bid.

The LSE's shares rocketed by 23.75p to 579.75p amid fevered market speculation the company could eventually fall into foreign hands for as much as 600p a share, a value of £1.53 billion.

It has been suggested **Euronext** is prepared to offer £1.4 billion, although some analysts believe the group might struggle to raise the funds.

**Euronext** chief executive **Jean Francois Theodore** and **Deutsche Boerse** boss **Werner Seifert** are to meet their LSE counterpart **Clara Furse** today.

### Hostile

But a bidding war, should one happen, will not start until the new year, unless **Deutsche Boerse** launches a hostile bid before then.

**Furse** is believed to be in "listening mode" and keen to know what the two sides can offer the LSE's customers and shareholders.

**Theodore** is expected to stress the similar ways his company and the LSE are organised means **Euronext** can extract more savings and generate more revenues from a tie up.

**Frankfurt** stock market owner **Deutsche Boerse** is thought to have the deeper pockets.

**COMMUTERS** are returning to the rail network after the **Hatfield** disaster. **National Express** said yesterday.

It reported a 5% hike in passenger numbers in the year.

The firm, which runs **Central Trains** in Birmingham and all train services from London's **Liverpool Street** to **East Anglia**, said the growth would help it report full-year earnings ahead of expectations. Its shares went up 13p to 799.

## FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 34.30 points (+0.73%) at 4731.10

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low			
3i Grp.	660d	+4	686	628	1470	Carnival	3088	-9	3109	2248	2568	Kingfisher	307	+4	317	270	SAB	839d	+4	884	537	4718
A.B. Food	752xd	+10	755	562	1082	Centrica	229	+2	280	229	1918	Land Secs.	1370d	+19	1373	984	Sage Grp.	195	-1	201	155	3601
Aldi	508	-	523	405	1000	Compass Group	240	+1	385	213	7663	Legal&Gen.	111	+1	112	87	Sainsbury(J)	266d	-	359	242	1050
Alliance & Linc.	906	+13	915	795	2233	Corus Group	52	+1	56	29	4930	Lib-Int.	925	+11	935	650	Schroders	747	+8	749	535	1415
Alliance Unichm	758	+12	765	488	6022	Daily Mail	724xd	+4	763	623	3973	Lloyds Tsb Grp.	439	+3	476	391	Schroders Iv	679	-	681	496	2917
AMV&CAP	301	-2	460	261	1124	Diageo	731	+3	790	657	1029	Mm2	119	-	121	78	Scot.&Newcastle	435	+1	444	364	1421
Anglo	1188	+27	1420	1072	4949	Dixons Grp.	148	+1	176	134	1020	National Grid	485d	+4	486	385	Scot.&Sth Enrgy	847	+7	849	637	6027
Antofagasta	1079	+2	1258	836	3438	Emp	816d	+7	955	696	1166	Mm2	119	-	121	78	Scot Power	394xd	+4	443	350	6028
Astrazenca	1190	+24	1249	1877	1585	Ent. Inc.	751	-1	781	695	4713	Morrison (Wm)	208	+1	256	171	Severn Trent	953xd	+21	960	700	4015
Aviva	628	+5	636	481	3388	Exel	711	-3	789	682	1366	Next	1640d	+1	1705	1088	Shell	431	+3	446	349	2335
BAA	571xd	-1	595	478	3389	Friends Prov.	155	-	160	123	7733	Nitr. Rock	794	+8	796	686	Shire Pharmcd	533	-3	571	436	2000
BAE Sys	232	+1	257	159	1010	Gallagher Grp.	795	+33	798	584	2222	Old Mutual	131	-	135	90	Smith&Nephew	523	-1	614	439	1434
Barclays	572	+3	577	443	1004	GlaxoSmithKline	1182d	+12	1299	1042	1024	Pearson	611	+2	681	579	Smiths Grp.	806	+4	813	619	1437
BO Grp.	348	+3	380	273	2724	GUS	923	+8	930	713	1237	Prudential	451	-1	533	386	Stand.Chart	954	+6	1035	833	4687
BP	502	+2	556	419	1011	Hanson	437	+6	451	369	1030	Reckitt Bencksr	1542	+15	1606	1238	Tate & Lyle	476xd	-5	495	273	4665
BOC Grp.	945	+4	949	841	1008	Hays	121	-1	145	111	6084	Reed Elsevier	468	+7	542	445	Tesco	318	-3	318	237	1056
Boots Group	658d	+7	752	596	1099	HBO	837	+7	840	663	3333	Rentokil Int'l	141	+1	206	136	Unilever	490	+4	576	443	5983
BT	302	+2	356	219	1011	Imperial Grp.	274	+3	284	214	1942	Rolls Royce	251xd	+1	259	167	Walsley	941	-7	971	741	3287
Br.Airways	221	-3	332	199	6258	HSBC Hldgs.	875xd	+16	935	784	5562	Royal Bank Scot.	1720	+10	1764	1464	WPP Grp.	561	+4	643	469	3283
Br.Amer.Tob.	890	+6	898	746	1003	Imp.Chem.	233	-	247	189	1032	Royal Sun All.	75	-	109	58	Xstrata	912	+12	950	608	3421
Br.Land	362	+9	386	579	1238	Imp.Tobacco Grp.	1430	+61	1440	1053	1271	Sainsbury	141	+1	141	109	Yell Grp.	437	+1	443	299	1026
BSkyB	552	+5	776	465	3382	Intercon. Hotel	651	+3	775	537	3729	Santander	141	+1	141	109						
BT Group	204	+2	206	169	1012	ITV	106xd	+1	148	94	2145											
Bunzl	436d	+1	485	408	1015	Johnson Matth.	973xd	+7	1032	841	1280											
Cable & Wire	115	+1	133	86	1916																	
Cadbury-Sch.	473	+4	476	393	1016																	
Cain Energy	1050	-6	1570	365	3643																	
Capita Grp.	359	+1	370	224	6263																	

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# British Greyhound Racing Board

## BEST IN THE WORLD FOR DROOPYS

THE Sky Sports cameras may have been packed away for the year so far as live greyhound racing is concerned, but armchair Sky Digital customers need fear not for Channel 425 continues its five-nightly weekly coverage and tonight serves up a real treat with 'industry night' at Brough Park.

Despite the feature - the £3,000 Press Association Winter Classic - being without Greyhound of the Year contenders Fire Height Dan (connections declined invite) and Farloe Verdict (recurrence of toe injury), the fixture has attracted a quality entry across a wide variety of disciplines, which should result in some gripping action around the fair Newcastle Gaol.

**Droopys Best** (10.25), winner of the East Anglian Challenge and runner-up in the Yarmouth Derby during a productive

by JIM AUSTIN

September, has remained in great heart since and lost absolutely nothing in defeat from a tricky middle draw at Stainforth last time out.

There are no such worries for Charlie Lister's dog in the finale tonight as he goes from the coveted rails slot with the inclined middle Valencia Lover in two, however with the likes of Kent Derby winner Manera Spark, All-England Cup hero Tally Ho Shimmer, Drop Goal Johnny and Cathals Idol completing the line-up, victory will be far from served on a plate.

Crucially, however, Droopys Best can charge into an early lead and with his stamina proven for and above the requirements for 480m, he should take plenty of pegging back.

**Betting (Hills):** 7-4 Droopys Best, 9-4 Tally Ho Shimmer, 7-2 Valencia Lover, 5 Drop Goal Johnny, 10 Manera Spark, 16 Cathals Idol.

**Internet Jo** (81) lines up for his 50th race in the country, a career which started in quite spectacular fashion on 29 April 2003 here at Brough Park, when he set a new track record for the 480m trip in a graded race.

Jan Little's dog may have spent the best part of the last five months on the sidelines, but he wasted no time getting back on the scoresheet at Sunderland last week and can bag the Eastwoods 500m Irish Breed Invitation over the 500m trip. Those who saw last week's Sky action from Sunderland will be only too aware of the



NET OFFICE: Follow Internet Jo tonight

affection for the middle of the track shown by Hes Our Prince, and expected repeat tactics could see Centenary Pass (8.53) - a winner at that fixture - get the run of the 290m contest from the one box.

**Farloe Divide** (9.40) surprisingly didn't really seem at home around Monmore during last week's Ladbroke Christmas Festival, but he was still good enough to take the Stayers title, and the St Leger finalist looks the one in the Stanley 640m Stayers Invitation.

This is one of the better races on the card affording Lister's dog little margin for error and he will certainly have a race on his paws if Zigzag Kit can get loose. But she has a tricky midfield drag again with earlybirds up her inner and that should set the race up perfectly for Farloe Divide out wide.

### BROUGH PARK TONIGHT

7.35	(IT)	480m	1 221	Dynasty Loper (m)	29.94
1231	Ludworth Spit (w)	29.94	2 216	SA All (w)	29.94
1232	Paula Australia (w)	29.94	3 441	Chad's (w)	29.94
1233	2186 Santa Maria (w)	29.94	4 114	SOLAR Rm (w)	29.94
1234	1602 Peter Best Joe (w)	29.94	5 140	Norris (w)	29.94
1235	1134 Blunstone Rose (w)	29.94	6 532	Dynasty Dyno (w)	29.94
1236	6225 Chormen Cade (w)	29.94	<b>Star betting:</b> 2 Dyno, 5 Dyno, 5 Solary Rm, 5 Solary Rm, 5 SA All, 5 Paula Australia, 5 Ludworth Spit, 4 Santa Maria, 9-2 Blunstone Rose, 6-1 Chormen Cade		
7.50	(IT)	480m	9.25	(Open)	7.00
1237	1236 Fluffy Dances (w)	29.94	1 221	CONKIEE (w)	29.94
1238	1132 IVETON (w)	29.94	2 305	So Stormy (w)	29.94
1239	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	3 233	Crashed (w)	29.94
1240	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	4 353	Conch's Maple (w)	29.94
1241	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	5 313	Ward (w)	29.94
1242	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	<b>Star betting:</b> 7 Conch's Maple, 2 Conch's Maple, 4 Ward, 3 Wren, 3 Creamy Milk, Conch's Maple, 10 Wren, 10 Wren		
1243	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	9.40	(Open)	640m
1244	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	1 141	Lunga Cone (w)	29.94
1245	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	2 154	Springwood Chum (w)	29.94
1246	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	3 113	Zipper Kt (w)	29.94
1247	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	4 282	Party (w)	29.94
1248	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	5 148	Wagon Run (w)	29.94
1249	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	6 313	Ward (w)	29.94
1250	1144 Eddie (w)	29.94	Chw:	5 BOLDY DIVE (w)	29.94
<b>Star betting:</b> 4 BOLDY DIVE, 2 Zipper Kt, 4 Wagon Run, 4 W					



## PUNTER POINTERS

## WHO'S HOT AND NOT

**TERRIFIC TRAINERS:** (Most wins last 14 days) M Pipe 15; G L Moore 6; R Almer 5; K Ryan 4; Miss G Kelleway 4.  
**SUFFERING STABLES:** (Runners since last win) D Shaw 162; L Dace 14; Enrico Inicia 104; Mrs P Duffield 100; K Wingrove 85; J Unlett 85; K Morgan 78; Miss J Doyle 75.  
**HOT JOCKS:** (Most wins last 14 days) N Callan 10; A P McCoy 9; R Johnson 6; A Thornton 7; S Thomas 6; G Carlin 6; G Baker 4; P Makin 4; S Dromme 4; B Kelly 3; E Almer 3; S Hitchcott 3; J Maynard 3; N Fehly 3; E Moore 3.  
**RISE OUT OF LUCK:** (Rides since last win) R FitzPatrick 81; Stephanie Hollandshead 78; J Jones 70; P Holley 67; M Henry 48; Darren Williams 43; V Slattery 43; S Curran 42; Dawn Watson 2; P P Harris 36; L Aspell 35; A Nichols 31; A Daly 31; M Bachelard 30.

## NEW QUARTERS

HORSES having their first runs for new owners

**FONTWELL:** 12.40 Rotherham (P Cole to C Mann), 1.40 One Of Them (Mrs G Harvey to Miss G Brown), Turku (D Shaw to R Manners), 2.10 Get The Point (G Brown to Dr P Pritchard), 3.40 Lufkura (A Hobbs to Miss C Lavinia).  
**LINGFIELD:** 12.20 Lincanish (S Dow to T M Jones), 12.50 Fida (D Wachman (re) to H Morrison), 1.20 Savoy Chapel (J A Osborne to A Carroll), 1.50 Queenstown (B Meahan to B Pearce), 2.00 Lane Bleu (D K Kirk to T Ketchy), 2.50 Strider (Sir M Stoute to P Evans), 3.20 Gold Guest (P Evans to J Hetherington).  
**SOUTHWELL:** 1.00 Catchabird (Mrs A Naughton (re) to K Wingrove), 1.30 El Pedro (N Berry to R Harris), Minibule (M Pipe to N Wilson), Molly's Secret (G Cox to Miss S Wilson), Rumour Mill (N Berry to R Harris), 2.00 Lane Marshal (M Sweeney to J O'Reilly), 2.30 Tappet (N Berry to R Harris), Arogant Prince (J Pearce to C Dore), Attorney (D Shaw to R Harris), Petana (M Dore to R P Elliott), 3.00 Jungle Lion (J A Harris to J R Norton), Coodore Jade (N Berry to R Harris), 3.30 Sriology (M Holden (re) to G Prodromou).

## DROP IN CLASS

**FONTWELL:** 12.40 Matthew Muroto down 2; 3.40 Party Games down 2; Green Gamble down 2.  
**LINGFIELD:** 12.20 Cashel Queen down 2; Coronado Forest down 2; 3.20 Grand Ideas down 2.  
**SOUTHWELL:** 1.00 Indian Music down 2; Lake Verdi down 2; Prince Of Perles down 2; The Gambler down 3; 1.30 Tappet Bullet down 2; 2.00 Celia Ma Time Elite down 2; 2.30 Henry Tun down 2; Cloudless down 3; Full Pitch down 2; Attorney down 2; Petana down 3; 3.00 Jungle Lion down 2; Dances With Angels down 3; Mandrake down 3; Princess Gankers down 2; 3.30 Walking Wizard down 2; Hantel The Zoo down 3; Albee down 2; Mister Rotherham down 3; Rajah Sultan down 4; Dancer King down 3; Zuloguo down 4.

## BE TRENDY

## NO TRENDS TODAY

## BAD FOR FAVS

ONLY 2 favourites have won the 1.40 at Fontwell in the last 10 years.

## BIGGEST EARNERS

FONTWELL: Hear 3.10 £58,911  
 LINGFIELD: Kingman 2.20 £56,738  
 SOUTHWELL: Curran 3.00 £119,978

## LONGEST TRAVELLERS

Horse (time & course) Distance  
 Million Penny (2.20 Ln) 271 miles  
 Atlantic Quest (2.50 Ln) 271 miles  
 Cold Guest (3.20 Ln) 247 miles  
 Inver Gold (1.30 Sh) 242 miles  
 Kentucky Bullet (1.30 Sh) 242 miles

## HANDICAP BLOT

GUS DES BOIS (Fontwell, 2.10) is a reliable type and could be up to defying a penalty.

## MUST NEXT TIME

TOJONESKI was in rear for a long way and by time made move a lot of the field had flown. This run is best ignored.

## ONE TO SWERVE

COME BYE (3.40, Fontwell) tends to find one too good in recent races.

## BEST EACH WAY

PERCIPIENT (3.40, Fontwell) has done enough to suggest a place worth be out of the reckoning.

## MAGIC COMBINATIONS

A P McCoy rides Rob Leach (1.40) for G L Moore, previous combination 6 wins from 17 mounts 47% strike rate at Fontwell.  
 J E Moore rides Sesame Rambler (12.40), Brave Caradoc (2.10) & Atlantis (3.40) for G L Moore, previous combination 5 wins from 33 mounts 27% strike rate at Fontwell.  
 L Aspell rides Dreams Forgotten (2.40) for P R Hedger, previous combination 6 wins from 16 mounts 25% strike rate at Fontwell.  
 N Fehly rides Rotherham (12.40) for C J Mann, previous combination 7 wins from 41 mounts 17% strike rate at Fontwell.

## KING'S HANDICAP



LOOKING DANDY: Kingscliff on way to another win

▲ONE horse from the Almer yard to note for the future is Novacella, a three-year-old half-sister to eight times winner Marcel. Although she has been placed in listed company in France, she has a valuable maiden status to exploit.

▲BEST MATE and Azertyuop were still among the 16 horses left in the King George at yesterday's five-day stage, though both are unlikely runners. The first three in the betting - Kicking King, Le Roi Miguel and Calling Brave are all safely in.

2005: Meeting abandoned due to snow.

## FONTWELL: HEAR IT ON 09055 141 601 (611)

## 12.40 blues.com NOVICES' HURDLE

(E) (11 fences) 2m6f/1f (9 runners) £3,591  
 1 2115 GALLERY GOD (10) (G.C.S.) S Dow 8 11 12 T McCoy 55  
 2 4346 AZEMOUR (10) (P) Nichols 5 10 12 Christian Williams 46  
 3 2405 BUBBA BOY (27) (G) M Pipe 4 10 12 T Scudamore 32  
 4 20 IRISH LEGEND (17) (G) M Pipe 4 10 12 A Thornton 50  
 5 00470 IT'S GOT BUCKLEYS (10) (D) Dace 5 10 12 D Laverly 71  
 6 04595 MATTHEW MURTO (30) (C) L Tizzard 5 10 12 J Tizzard 47  
 7 55148 SESAME RAMBLER (14) (S) G L Moore 5 10 12 N Fehly 11  
 8 39120 DONTKORER (17) (S) R Buckle 6 10 5 B Hitchcott 47  
 Star Betting: 1-11.4 Gallery God, 7-2 Irish Legend, 10 Bubba Boy, 14 Rotherham, 16 Azemour, 20 Matthew Muroto, 25 Sesame Rambler, 33 others.

2005: Meeting abandoned due to snow.

## STARFORM

GALLERY GOD should be up to winning this, after winning twice at this course, was stepped up in class only to finish 5th in a Grade 2 at Sandown.

Irish Legend looks the chief danger and was only 3rd in 3rd and closing when fell at the third last in race won by Montefiore at Chesham and before that was nearly 2nd to Diamond Orchid at Ludlow.

Bubba Boy weakened three times when 4th 5th to Miss Fahrenheit at Chesham and more of a threat may come from Azemour.

Star Betting: 1-11.4 Gallery God, 7-2 Irish Legend, 10 Bubba Boy, 14 Rotherham, 16 Azemour, 20 Matthew Muroto, 25 Sesame Rambler, 33 others.

## CASINO AT blues.com NOVICES' CHASE

Class E (15 fences) 2m4f (6 runners) £4,001

1 162310 DURLSTON BAY (17) (P) S Dow 7 11 14 P Flynn 76  
 2 105216 L'ORPHELIN (21) (S) P J Harris 6 11 14 J Tizzard 76  
 3 00445 MISTER PUTT (35) (S) P J Harris 6 11 14 J Tizzard 76  
 4 433149 OJAYS ALBANI (17) (P) J Frost 8 11 14 G Honour 51  
 5 11014 PREMIER ESTATE (27) (C) G L Moore 5 10 12 P R Hedger 71  
 6 33245 ANGEL DELIGHT (12) (S) P J Harris 6 11 14 J Tizzard 76  
 Star Betting: 1-10 L'Orpelin, 3 Angel Delight, 5 Premier Estate, 6 Mister Putt, 25 Durlston Bay, 33 others.

L'ORPHELIN could still be ahead of the handicapper as the fitting of blinkers seems to have worked wonders. Got off the mark in emphatic style at Newton Abbot and then returned to the track to easily beat Prayerful 22 lengths with forceful tactics working.

Premier Estate was 4th to Cool Roxy over a slightly shorter trip here but kept on under pressure so should be suited when 4th 5th to Miss Fahrenheit at her task well when nearly 4th 3rd to

## STARFORM

Macnecan at Huntingdon and wasn't helped by a faller three out in front of her. Durlston Bay was always in rear behind Migwell at Sandown. Ojays Albani was a 100-1 shot when pulled up behind Backbeat at Exeter and Mister Putt was last of five to Auditor at Towcester and both his wins have come at Plumpton.

## STARFORM: L'ORPHELIN Danger: Premier Estate

1.40 BET AT blues.com SELLING HURDLE

Class G (9 fences) 2m2f/1f (11 runners) £2,604

1 405106 DOWNTHEREFORDANCIN (12) (G) M Pipe 4 11 4 T Scudamore 62  
 2 105216 MAJLIS (12) (C) G L Moore 5 11 4 L Stephens 73  
 3 43525 FAST KING (27) (S) P J Harris 6 11 14 O Dayman 10  
 4 60245 HATTERAS (25) (P) Nichols 5 10 12 Christian Williams 71  
 5 002065 MONSIEUR DALE (7) (S) P J Harris 6 11 14 R Johnson 58  
 6 60055 ONE OF THEM (28) (P) M Jones 5 10 12 M Jones 58  
 7 126510 RICHMOND LEWDE (F38) (V) M Madwick 4 10 12 R Lucy-Butler 71  
 8 126510 ROB LEACH (75) (G) S L Moore 5 10 12 A McCoy 47  
 9 58944 RICHMOND LEWDE (F38) (V) M Madwick 4 10 12 R Lucy-Butler 71  
 10 10 ZIGGY DAN (21) (P) R Buckle 4 10 12 P Tully 10  
 11 10 ZIGGY DAN (21) (P) R Buckle 4 10 12 P Tully 10  
 Star Betting: 1-1.4 Majlis, 7-2 Downtherefordancin, 4 Rob Leach, 5 Fast King, 6 Hatteras, 12 Monsal Dale, 25 Running Times, Turku, 33 others.

MAJLIS should be better suited by this trip after fading to come 6th to Cyborg De Soul over 2m 5f 110yds at Huntingdon but before that this former Lanzarote hurdle winner was 71 to good over C-to for Kaparod. Downtherefordancin returned from a lengthy layoff to be well beaten 5th to Red Society at Taunton and should be sharpened up by this run and also the drop in company. Rob Leach wasn't a

## STARFORM

bad sort a couple of years ago winning a big handicap at Sandown so if anywhere near best then could be the one they all have to beat. Hatteras is another dropped in class and certainly not a leading Nicholls horse. Fast King was 3rd to Fast Mix at Chesham.

## STARFORM: MAJLIS Danger: Downtherefordancin

## by TONY LEWIS

PREPARE for the return of the hugely talented chaser with automatic pilot.

When Kingscliff returns to action in the Stan James King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, it will herald a sigh of relief from his trainer Robert Almer and jockey Andrew Thornton as his highly promising career has been kept on ice for the best part of a year with muscular problems.

Few will forget Thornton's nightmare journey round Ascot last season when the left rein broke early on and he had to just sit there bravely, almost a passenger, while the horse jumped his way to victory.

## Rhythm

It quote rightly earned Thornton praise for one of the rides of the season and put Kingscliff firmly on the list of potential Cheltenham Gold Cup winners, especially as he'd won the Foxhunters there the season before.

Still only seven, he was unbeaten over fences before the muscle was pulled early on at Haydock in January, sending his usually sound jumping rhythm into disarray as he finished second to Artic Jack in the Peter Marsh Chase when trying to concede a massive 18lb.

But all looked fine and serene with him yesterday morning, despite the icy surroundings at Alner's Locketts Farm, high above Blandford Forum in Dorset.

With a name like Kingscliff, you would expect a royal presence and the young pretender certainly didn't disappoint as he strolled round majestically on his own and posed for photos.

Now it's an anxious wait to see if he can go on the two-hour trip to Kempton, run somewhere hear to his best form and return home safely with the Gold Cup firmly in his sights. "We

will be looking for a good run, but we don't want to put too much pressure on him. He's got to be in good luck with four hurdles to jump. The chaser course is a figure-eight with five fences per circuit, and run-in of 230yds which is slightly uphill.

## TOP TRAINERS

(with runners) M Pipe 41 winners, (28% strike rate), -£25.13, P Nicholls 35, (28%), +£1.44, G L Moore 35, (22%), +£11.71, R Rowe 21, (+£38.51), C L Tizzard 11, (+£16.4), -£10.77, C Mann 9, (-£5.59), R Buckler 7, (+£12.75, B J Llewellyn 6, (22%), +£40.33, S Dow 6, (26%), +£2.50, P Hedger 6, (12%), -£16.50, Dr P Pritchard 5, (10%), -£25.75.

## 2.10 BLUE SQUARE 0800 587 0200 HANDICAP CHASE

Class E (16 fences) 2m6f (7 runners) £4,017

1 332321 GUS DES BOIS (8) (D) G L Moore 5 10 12 A Thornton 72  
 2 P15312 GET THE POINT (24) (G) S Dow 8 11 12 A McGoff 59  
 3 P15312 GET THE POINT (24) (G) S Dow 8 11 12 A McGoff 59  
 4 P15312 GET THE POINT (24) (G) S Dow 8 11 12 A McGoff 59  
 5 P15312 GET THE POINT (24) (G) S Dow 8 11 12 A McGoff 59  
 6 P15312 GET THE POINT (24) (G) S Dow 8 11 12 A McGoff 59  
 7 P15312 GET THE POINT (24) (G) S Dow 8 11 12 A McGoff 59  
 Star Betting: 1-2.10 G L Moore, 5-10 A Thornton, 7-12 A McGoff, 9-11 A McGoff, 12-13 A McGoff, 14-15 A McGoff, 16-17 A McGoff, 18-19 A McGoff, 20-21 A McGoff, 22-23 A McGoff, 24-25 A McGoff, 26-27 A McGoff, 28-29 A McGoff, 30-31 A McGoff, 32-33 A McGoff, 34-35 A McGoff, 36-37 A McGoff, 38-39 A McGoff, 40-41 A McGoff, 42-43 A McGoff, 44-45 A McGoff, 46-47 A McGoff, 48-49 A McGoff, 50-51 A McGoff, 52-53 A McGoff, 54-55 A McGoff, 56-57 A McGoff, 58-59 A McGoff, 60-61 A McGoff, 62-63 A McGoff, 64-65 A McGoff, 66-67 A McGoff, 68-69 A McGoff, 70-71 A McGoff, 72-73 A McGoff, 74-75 A McGoff, 76-77 A McGoff, 78-79 A McGoff, 80-81 A McGoff, 82-83 A McGoff, 84-85 A McGoff, 86-87 A McGoff, 88-89 A McGoff, 90-91 A McGoff, 92-93 A McGoff, 94-95 A McGoff, 96-97 A McGoff, 98-99 A McGoff, 100-101 A McGoff, 102-103 A McGoff, 104-105 A McGoff, 106-107 A McGoff, 108-109 A McGoff, 110-111 A McGoff, 112-113 A McGoff, 114-115 A McGoff, 116-117 A McGoff, 118-119 A McGoff, 120-121 A McGoff, 122-123 A McGoff, 124-125 A McGoff, 126-127 A McGoff, 128-129 A McGoff, 130-131 A McGoff, 132-133 A McGoff, 134-135 A McGoff, 136-137 A McGoff, 138-139 A McGoff, 140-141 A McGoff, 142-143 A McGoff, 144-145 A McGoff, 146-147 A McGoff, 148-149 A McGoff, 150-151 A McGoff, 152-153 A McGoff, 154-155 A McGoff, 156-157 A McGoff, 158-159 A McGoff, 160-161 A McGoff, 162-163 A McGoff, 164-165 A McGoff, 166-167 A McGoff, 168-169 A McGoff, 170-171 A McGoff, 172-173 A McGoff, 174-175 A McGoff, 176-177 A McGoff, 178-179 A McGoff, 180-181 A McGoff, 182-183 A McGoff, 184-185 A McGoff, 186-187 A McGoff, 188-189 A McGoff, 190-191 A McGoff, 192-193 A McGoff, 194-195 A McGoff, 196-197 A McGoff, 198-199 A McGoff, 200-201 A McGoff, 202-203 A McGoff, 204-205 A McGoff, 206-207 A McGoff, 208-209 A McGoff, 210-211 A McGoff, 212-213 A McGoff, 214-215 A McGoff, 216-217 A McGoff, 218-219 A McGoff, 220-221 A McGoff, 222-223 A McGoff, 224-225 A McGoff, 226-227 A McGoff, 228-229 A McGoff, 230-231 A McGoff, 232-233 A McGoff, 234-235 A 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568-569 A McGoff, 570-571 A McGoff, 572-573 A McGoff, 574-575 A McGoff, 576-577 A McGoff, 578-579 A McGoff, 580-581 A McGoff, 582-583 A McGoff, 584-585 A McGoff, 586-587 A McGoff, 588-589 A McGoff, 590-591 A McGoff, 592-593 A McGoff, 594-595 A McGoff, 596-597 A McGoff, 598-599 A McGoff, 600-601 A McGoff, 602-603 A McGoff, 604-605 A McGoff, 606-607 A McGoff, 608-609 A McGoff, 610-611 A McGoff, 612-613 A McGoff, 614-615 A McGoff, 616-617 A McGoff, 618-619 A McGoff, 620-621 A McGoff, 622-623 A McGoff, 624-625 A McGoff, 626-627 A McGoff, 628-629 A McGoff, 630-631 A McGoff, 632-633 A McGoff, 634-635 A McGoff, 636-637 A McGoff, 638-639 A McGoff, 640-641 A McGoff, 642-643 A McGoff, 644-645 A McGoff, 646-647 A McGoff, 648-649 A McGoff, 650-651 A McGoff, 652-653 A McGoff, 654-655 A McGoff, 656-657 A McGoff, 658-659 A McGoff, 660-661 A McGoff, 662-663 A McGoff, 664-665 A McGoff, 666-667 A McGoff, 668-669 A McGoff, 670-671 A McGoff, 672-673 A McGoff, 674-675 A McGoff, 676-677 A McGoff, 678-679 A 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790-791 A McGoff, 792-793 A McGoff, 794-795 A McGoff, 796-797 A McGoff, 798-799 A McGoff, 800-801 A McGoff, 802-803 A McGoff, 804-805 A McGoff, 806-807 A McGoff, 808-809 A McGoff, 810-811 A McGoff, 812-813 A McGoff, 814-815 A McGoff, 816-817 A McGoff, 818-819 A McGoff, 820-821 A McGoff, 822-823 A McGoff, 824-825 A McGoff, 826-827 A McGoff, 828-829 A McGoff, 830-831 A McGoff, 832-833 A McGoff, 834-835 A McGoff, 836-837 A McGoff, 838-839 A McGoff, 840-841 A McGoff, 842-843 A McGoff, 844-845 A McGoff, 846-847 A McGoff, 848-849 A McGoff, 850-851 A McGoff, 852-853 A McGoff, 854-855 A McGoff, 856-857 A McGoff, 858-859 A McGoff, 860-861 A McGoff, 862-863 A McGoff, 864-865 A McGoff, 866-867 A McGoff, 868-869 A McGoff, 870-871 A McGoff, 872-873 A McGoff, 874-875 A McGoff, 876-877 A McGoff, 878-879 A McGoff, 880-881 A McGoff, 882-883 A McGoff, 884-885 A McGoff, 886-887 A McGoff, 888-889 A McGoff, 890-891 A McGoff, 892-893 A McGoff, 894-895 A McGoff, 896-897 A McGoff, 898-899 A McGoff, 900-901 A McGoff, 902-903 A McGoff, 904-905 A McGoff, 9



# Dean wanted to ride best horses

DEAN Gallagher yesterday spoke of his disappointment at not being able to ride the best of Francois Doumen's horses as one of the reasons for his decision to move to rival trainer Francois Cottin.

The 35-year-old returned to the saddle as Doumen's stable jockey in September after an 18-month ban for testing positive for cocaine.

Although he rode 17 winners for the trainer, Gallagher was not given the ride on the JP McManus-owned stars Bara-

by TONY LEWIS

couda and First Gold, and he believed that accepting a generous offer to join the yard of the up-and-coming Cottin would be a better move.

"Mr Doumen was obviously not happy and wanted me to stay," Gallagher.

"I understand what he has done for me and I think I have done a good job for him, but I am a jockey, I want to ride winners, and with JP McManus having a JP McCoy as his jockey, he rides the

best horses in the yard." Cottin has made rapid progress up the training ranks and since starting in April is already fifth in the standings, and has many more runners than Doumen.

Gallagher continued: "When I first came over here I had never heard of Francois Cottin, but it wasn't long before I had, with his horses passing me on the run-in."

"He is unbelievably talented, he is up there with the likes of Aidan O'Brien as a young trainer," he added.



GALLAGHER: New yard

# Colonel gets best

COLONEL FRANK, who has won his last three chases, is to be rested until February before embarking on a campaign geared towards the Betfred Gold Cup at Sandown. Brendan Powell's gelding has shown a liking for the Esher track and on his latest start beat some of the best second-season chasers in the country in the Future Stars Chase.

Powell, mindful that Colonel Frank likes good ground, said: "I am giving him a break and he won't run again until towards the end of February. I hope that race will see him up for the Whitbread (now the Betfred), in which he is likely to get his favoured conditions."

LIKE-A-BUTTERFLY is among the entries for the Durkan New Homes Novice Chase at Leopardstown on Boxing Day and Christy Roche's popular mare could face some of Ireland's best two-mile novices in the Grade One contest. The 10-year-old returned from over a year and a half off the track to win impressively first time out over fences at Naas last month.

## LINGFIELD ON 09055 141 602 (612)

**TRACKFACTS** (AW) Polytrack surface. Left-handed course, 1m 2f round with a 2f run-in. The draw is of little advantage but a fast start is essential. Stalls toward Turf Course: Stands Side, AW: Inside.

### 11.50 MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1)

Class 5 2YO 1m (11 runners)	£4,256
1 (1) ALESSANDRO (10) (D) 5.11	R Hughes
2 (1) COME WHAT AUGUSTUS (E) 5.11	E Aherm
3 (1) GOLDEN SADDLE (18) (B) 5.11	O'Neill
4 (1) HEIGHT OF SPIRITS (17) (D) 5.11	C O'Neil
5 (1) IN THE KNOW (45) (B) 5.11	J Fortune
6 (1) NATIVE AMERICAN (38) (M) 5.11	N Henry
7 (1) NOBELLY (17) (D) 5.11	R Fallon
8 (1) OUTSIDE HALF (W) 5.11	Dweeney
9 (1) TRYMORE (A) 5.11	M Dwyer
10 (1) ZIGZAG (A) 5.11	T Quinlan
11 (1) COOMBE CENTENARY (105) (D) 5.11	R Quinn

Star Betting: 5-2 Nobelly, 3-1 In The Know, 11-2 Come What Augustus, 9-1 Trymore, 10-1 Alessandros, 14-1 Golden Saddle, Height of Spirits, Native American, Ziggie, 16-1 Nobelly.

BEST DRAWN: Coombe Centenary (drawn 2) 12%, Height of Spirits (drawn 3) 12%.

2003: No corresponding meeting.

### STARFORM: IN THE KNOW Danger: Nobelly

### 12.20 FIRST CHOICE HANDICAP (Div 1)

Class 4 1m 2f (13 runners)	£2,955
1 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
2 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
3 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
4 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
5 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
6 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
7 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
8 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
9 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
10 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
11 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
12 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
13 (1) 555555 CRITICAL WAY (17) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan

Star Betting: 7-2 Noble, 4-1 Cashel Queen, 10-1 Lyric Way, Ottago, The Job, 12-1 Duelling Banjos, Rock Convent, Canneshill, 14-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Cashel Queen (drawn 3) 12%, Ottago (drawn 5) 12%.

### STARFORM: OTTAGO Danger: Mad

### 12.50 MAIDEN STAKES (Div 2)

Class 5 2YO 1m (11 runners)	£4,085
1 (1) 40 BAYARD (48) (D) 5.11	T Quinlan
2 (1) 40 DUKES POINT (24) (G) 5.11	J Fortune
3 (1) 40 EXTRA MARK (10) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
4 (1) 40 HUMBLY (10) (D) 5.11	J Fortune
5 (1) 40 LORD OF ADVENTURE (108) (M) 5.11	P Dwyer
6 (1) 40 MICKELAH (10) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
7 (1) 40 RED STARS (10) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
8 (1) 40 YARDSTICK (20) (K) 5.11	S Dwyer
9 (1) 40 BRAMASOLE (18) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
10 (1) 40 BRIAR GYLL (25) (A) 5.11	D Fox
11 (1) 40 FIDRA (11) (M) 5.11	C O'Neil

Star Betting: 10-1 FIDRA, 10-1 Bramasole, 10-1 Extra Mark, 14-1 Bayard, Yardstick, FIDRA, 16-1 Mickelaha, 20-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Mickelaha (drawn 2) 15%, FIDRA (drawn 3) 12%.

### STARFORM: HUMBLE OPINION D: Extra Mark

### 1.00 BET DIRECT BANDED STAKES

Class 5 6f (14 runners)	£1,479
1 (1) 00045 ARCTIC BURST (20) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
2 (1) 00046 LARK IN SPIRIT (14) (D) 5.11	Stephanie Hollinshead
3 (1) 00047 BLOU DANCER (14) (D) 5.11	Joanna Badger
4 (1) 00048 CATHARINE (10) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
5 (1) 00049 INDIAN MUSIC (10) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
6 (1) 00050 LAKE EYRE (9) (D) 5.11	F Norton
7 (1) 00051 LAKE VERDI (10) (D) 5.11	G Kellaway
8 (1) 00052 MR UPPIE (9) (E) 5.11	P Cossgrave
9 (1) 00053 OFF HIRE (10) (D) 5.11	R Fitzpatrick
10 (1) 00054 PRINCE OF PERLES (28) (V) 5.11	A Winston
11 (1) 00055 SAINTLY PLACE (11) (D) 5.11	P Nicks
12 (1) 00056 STAR LAD (10) (D) 5.11	G Thomas
13 (1) 00057 STAVROS (9) (D) 5.11	D McCabe
14 (1) 00058 THE GAMBLER (11) (D) 5.11	P Johnson

Star Betting: 5-2 Mr Uppie, 9-1 Lake Eyre, 5-1 Lake Verdi, 8-1 Star Lad, 10-1 Arctic Burst, 12-1 Back In Spirit, Off Hire, 14-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Lake Verdi (drawn 11%), The Gambler (drawn 8), Saintly Place (drawn 4), Catharine (drawn 4) & Off Hire (drawn 12) 9%.

2003: No corresponding meeting.

### STARFORM: LAKE EYRE D: Prince Of Perles

### 1.30 BET DIRECT CLAIMING STAKES

Class 5 1m 4f (14 runners)	£1,474
1 (1) 00040 ARABIAN MOND (17) (D) 5.11	R Kingscott
2 (1) 00041 DEBIL (10) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
3 (1) 00042 INVER GOLD (34) (B) 5.11	S Whitworth
4 (1) 00043 TURFANZER (50) (G) 5.11	Janice Webster
5 (1) 00044 KENTUCKY BULLET (14) (D) 5.11	A Newcombe
6 (1) 00045 SPANISH STAR (7) (D) 5.11	M Macaulay
7 (1) 00046 RUBEL (6) (S) 5.11	P Makin
8 (1) 00047 DARK CUT (4) (S) 5.11	A Nicholls
9 (1) 00048 MINIBULE (12) (D) 5.11	P Mather
10 (1) 00049 MOLLY'S SECRET (5) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
11 (1) 00050 PENNY'S CROWN (46) (G) 5.11	L Fletcher
12 (1) 00051 RADIANT BRIDE (28) (B) 5.11	A Nicholls
13 (1) 00052 RUMOUR MILL (10) (B) 5.11	S Whitworth
14 (1) 00053 VALIANT AIR (18) (B) 5.11	R Winston

Star Betting: 3-1 Molly's Secret, 4-1 Radiant Bride, 4-1 Minibule, 10-1 Kentucky Bullet, 12-1 Arabian Mond, El Pedro, Inver Gold, Spanish Star, 14-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Rumour Mill (drawn 5) 22%, Kentucky Bullet (drawn 13) 17%.

### STARFORM: MOLLY'S SECRET D: El Pedro

## THE RACES

### TONY LEWIS STAR TIP

11.50 IN THE KNOW	11.50 IN THE KNOW
12.50 HUMBLE OPINION	12.50 HUMBLE OPINION
1.30 KING AFTER	1.30 KING AFTER
1.50 ADANTINO (treble)	1.50 ADANTINO
2.20 SMOKIN JOE	2.20 SMOKIN JOE
2.50 COMPTON DRAKE	2.50 COMPTON DRAKE
3.20 FORTUNE POINT	3.20 FORTUNE POINT

11.50 In The Know 12.50 Humble Opinion 1.30 King After 1.50 Adantino 2.20 Smokin Joe 2.50 Compton Drake 3.20 Fortune Point

GOING: Standard

JACKPOT & PLACEPOT: First six races.

### TOP TRAINERS

More 84 runners, G L strike rate, -£98.31, G A Butler 71, (20%), +£30.28, R Hannan 60, (11%), -£187.95, A Reid 49, (2%), +£24.28, K Burke 42, (11%), -£83.66, B Meehan 40, (15%), -£21.87, J Nosedale 36, (23%), -£22.53.

### 1.20 NURSERY HANDICAP

Class 3 2YO 7f (12 runners)	£4,115
1 (1) 00511 KINGSGATE BAY (21) (G) 5.11	T Quinlan
2 (1) 00512 JUST A TRY (10) (R) 5.11	R Hughes
3 (1) 00513 MANIC (7) (A) 5.11	S Dwyer
4 (1) 00514 PAULINE'S PRINCE (25) (D) 5.11	D Sweeney
5 (1) 00515 AMORGA (4) (M) 5.11	J Doyle
6 (1) 00516 BROWN MARCHE (18) (A) 5.11	T P Dwyer
7 (1) 00517 KING AFTER (19) (D) 5.11	E Aherm
8 (1) 00518 TERMINATE (24) (A) 5.11	E Aherm
9 (1) 00519 JOYKAUX (11) (S) 5.11	E Aherm
10 (1) 00520 WILSHIRE (7) (B) 5.11	J Fortune
11 (1) 00521 RONNIES LAD (6) (F) 5.11	J McDonald
12 (1) 00522 SAVOY CHAPEL (7) (A) 5.11	T Dwyer

Star Betting: 3-1 Kingsgate Bay, 7-2 King After, 7-1 Manic, 9-1 Joykaux, 10-1 Pauline's Prince, 12-1 Brown Marche, 14-1 Ronnies Ladd, 16-1 Wilshire, 18-1 Terminate, 20-1 Just A Try, 22-1 Amorga, 24-1 Manic.

BEST DRAWN: Wilshire (drawn 12) 7%, King After (drawn 7) 17%.

### STARFORM: BEAU MARCHE D: Kingsgate Bay

### 1.50 CROWN CENTRAL CLASSIFIED STAKES

Class 5 7f (14 runners)	£3,426
1 (1) 00045 ARCTIC BURST (20) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
2 (1) 00046 LARK IN SPIRIT (14) (D) 5.11	Stephanie Hollinshead
3 (1) 00047 BLOU DANCER (14) (D) 5.11	Joanna Badger
4 (1) 00048 CATHARINE (10) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
5 (1) 00049 INDIAN MUSIC (10) (D) 5.11	S Whitworth
6 (1) 00050 LAKE EYRE (9) (D) 5.11	F Norton
7 (1) 00051 LAKE VERDI (10) (D) 5.11	G Kellaway
8 (1) 00052 MR UPPIE (9) (E) 5.11	P Cossgrave
9 (1) 00053 OFF HIRE (10) (D) 5.11	R Fitzpatrick
10 (1) 00054 PRINCE OF PERLES (28) (V) 5.11	A Winston
11 (1) 00055 SAINTLY PLACE (11) (D) 5.11	P Nicks
12 (1) 00056 STAR LAD (10) (D) 5.11	G Thomas
13 (1) 00057 STAVROS (9) (D) 5.11	D McCabe
14 (1) 00058 THE GAMBLER (11) (D) 5.11	P Johnson

Star Betting: 5-2 Mr Uppie, 9-1 Lake Eyre, 5-1 Lake Verdi, 8-1 Star Lad, 10-1 Arctic Burst, 12-1 Back In Spirit, Off Hire, 14-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Prince of Gold (drawn 4) 13%, Harrison (drawn 5), Night Storm (drawn 3) & Zariano (drawn 7) 9%.

### STARFORM: ALI BRUCE D: Hurricane Floyd

## THE RACES

### FLAVIN BRADSTOCK & RBS HANDICAP

Class 5 6f (12 runners)	£3,494
1 (1) 00111 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
2 (1) 00112 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
3 (1) 00113 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
4 (1) 00114 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
5 (1) 00115 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
6 (1) 00116 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
7 (1) 00117 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
8 (1) 00118 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
9 (1) 00119 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
10 (1) 00120 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
11 (1) 00121 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer
12 (1) 00122 CHEROKEE NATION (17) (D) 5.11	P Dwyer

Star Betting: 4-1 Cherokee Nation, 9-1 Cherokee Nation, 10-1 Cherokee Nation, 11-1 Cherokee Nation, 12-1 Cherokee Nation, 13-1 Cherokee Nation, 14-1 Cherokee Nation, 15-1 Cherokee Nation, 16-1 Cherokee Nation, 17-1 Cherokee Nation, 18-1 Cherokee Nation, 19-1 Cherokee Nation, 20-1 Cherokee Nation, 21-1 Cherokee Nation, 22-1 Cherokee Nation, 23-1 Cherokee Nation, 24-1 Cherokee Nation, 25-1 Cherokee Nation, 26-1 Cherokee Nation, 27-1 Cherokee Nation, 28-1 Cherokee Nation, 29-1 Cherokee Nation, 30-1 Cherokee Nation, 31-1 Cherokee Nation, 32-1 Cherokee Nation, 33-1 Cherokee Nation, 34-1 Cherokee Nation, 35-1 Cherokee Nation, 36-1 Cherokee Nation, 37-1 Cherokee Nation, 38-1 Cherokee Nation, 39-1 Cherokee Nation, 40-1 Cherokee Nation, 41-1 Cherokee Nation, 42-1 Cherokee Nation, 43-1 Cherokee Nation, 44-1 Cherokee Nation, 45-1 Cherokee Nation, 46-1 Cherokee Nation, 47-1 Cherokee Nation, 48-1 Cherokee Nation, 49-1 Cherokee Nation, 50-1 Cherokee Nation, 51-1 Cherokee Nation, 52-1 Cherokee 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# WIN £1000'S

## FOOTBALL'S NO.1 FANTASY GAME

CHRISTMAS came early for Star Fantasy Football managers this week with a massive number of points available.

Top points scorer was Paul Scholes who played in two matches for Manchester United this week, finding the back of the net twice against Crystal Palace as well as assisting in Alan Smith's goal, to pick up a terrific 28 points.

Tottenham's Jermain Defoe helped him-

self to a healthy 24 points after scoring a hat-trick in the win over Southampton.

The latest winners to take advantage of these results were Mr I Mecke from Hereford who walks away with a cool £250 by scoring 182 points, Mr B Dyer from Bridgwater who pockets £150 with 167 points, and Mr W Privilege from Liverpool who wins £100 after scoring 166 points.

With three prizes on offer every week, it could be your turn next.

To help you on your way to winning our

£20,000 jackpot plus one of our three weekly prizes, don't forget to make the best use of your transfers. You can make 16 transfers at any time during the season (up to four in any one week).

Simply call our premium rate phone line 0905 072 3072 or log on to our website [www.starfantasyfootball.co.uk](http://www.starfantasyfootball.co.uk). You can also check out your latest score and position by calling the same number.

The next update will be next Thursday when we'll print the cumulative, as well as weekly, points scored for each player.

### FACTFILE

**Name:** Paul Scholes  
**Club:** Man Utd  
**Position:** Midfielder  
**Price:** £5m

### TOP 10 MANAGERS

1	Switz's Stars	Mr Switzer	1349
2	Immolation	Mr Dolan	1329
3	L Storr Xi	Mr Storr	1326
4	Dw Keartland Xi	Mr Keartland	1320
5	Bui	Mr Ferris	1317
6	Jay Jay Barden	Mr Barden	1311
7	Pedro Fc	Mr Smith	1309
8	The Boots	Mr Sykes	1308
9	Gordys Pub Crawl	Mr Payne	1307
10	Craigs Crusaders	Mr Scottford	1307

### TOP 5 SYNDICATES

1	Fiso Five	GP Dolan	1268
2	W1	WJ Ferris	1249
3	Swirles League	JL Swirles	1247
4	Tyrone	PJ O'Neill	1242
5	Swirles League	JL Swirles	1227

# SCOREBOARD

ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	
Goalkeepers																								
101	J Lehmann	ARS	5.5	-	67	349	I Campo	BOL	3.6	-	25	522	JJ Okocha	BOL	4.0	1	58	701	T Henry	ARS	10.0	6	184	
102	T Howard	MUN	5.3	-	16	351	C Bonanegra	FUL	3.6	-	52	523	M Holland	BLR	4.0	3/6	48	702	R van Nistelrooy	MUN	9.5	-	55	
103	C Cudicini	CHE	5.2	-	0	353	M Volz	FUL	3.6	54	54	524	K Anzures	LIV	3.9	-	15	703	A Shearer	NEW	8.5	-	69	
121	P Ocho	CHE	5.2	11	69	354	S Firman	LIV	3.6	2/5	73	526	N Solano	AVL	3.9	-	31	704	R Keane	TOT	8.0	9	76	
104	J Dudek	NEW	5.1	2/5	37	355	A O'Brien	NEW	3.6	-	17	527	M Izuel	BLR	3.9	-	75	705	J Ayegbeni	ARS	7.8	-	87	
105	S Given	NEW	5.0	0	44	356	J Van Damme	SOT	3.6	-	0	529	J Cole	CHE	3.9	-	46	706	J Angel	AVL	7.8	3	69	
106	T Sorensen	AVL	4.9	0	68	357	D Richards	SOT	3.6	-	0	530	T Graves	CHE	3.9	-	46	707	E Gudjohnsen	CHE	7.8	4	100	
107	E van der Sar	FUL	4.8	2	38	358	C Short	BLR	3.5	3	30	531	R Keane	MUN	3.9	9/12	68	708	D Drogba	CHE	7.8	9	68	
108	D James	MAN	4.8	11	87	359	V Giesels	WBA	3.5	9	9	532	J Jensen	NEW	3.9	3	72	709	L Saha	MUN	7.7	-	21	
109	M Schwarzer	MID	4.8	11	78	360	P Konchesky	CHA	3.5	-	45	533	D Rommedahl	CHA	3.9	-	33	710	M Forsell	BIR	7.4	-	11	
110	D Kelly	CHA	4.7	-	81	361	M Albrechtsen	WBA	3.5	-	10	534	Giberto Silva	ARS	3.9	-	70	711	N Anelka	MAN	7.4	9	87	
111	A Niamt	SOT	4.7	-	35	362	P Robinson	NOR	3.5	-	9	535	B Ferguson	BLR	3.8	-	70	712	A Smith	MUN	7.2	8/14	89	
112	R Robinson	TOT	4.7	-	95	400	T Helweg	NOR	3.5	-	14	536	S Tugay	BLR	3.8	-	20	713	W Rooney	MUN	7.1	3/6	73	
122	R Carroll	MUN	4.7	2/4	72	363	J Clapham	BIR	3.4	6	32	537	K Nolan	BLR	3.8	-	59	714	M Baros	LIV	7.1	1/14	89	
113	Mak Taylor	MUN	4.6	11	70	364	L Amoroso	BLR	3.4	-	37	538	J Drogba	BLR	3.8	-	6	715	G Bellamy	NEW	7.1	-	94	
114	N Marjyn	EVN	4.6	8	119	365	T Hibbert	EVN	3.4	-	21	539	C Jensen	FUL	3.8	-	14	716	D Cisse	LIV	7.0	-	47	
115	J Saastamoinen	BOL	4.5	2	46	366	R Dunne	MAN	3.4	11	71	540	A Siberski	MAN	3.8	6	68	717	M Viduka	MID	7.0	4	78	
116	S Hislop	POR	4.4	-	49	367	R Brennan	NOR	3.4	-	2	541	B Zenden	MAN	3.8	6	68	718	J Beattie	SOT	6.9	-	45	
117	R Friedel	WBA	4.3	-	48	368	J Brennan	NOR	3.4	-	2	542	P Berger	POR	3.8	3/3	82	719	J Defoe	TOT	6.9	24	97	
118	R Green	NOR	4.3	-	41	369	J Brennan	NOR	3.4	-	2	543	J Redknapp	TOT	3.8	-	34	720	A Juffe	CHE	6.8	-	5	
119	R Hout	WBA	4.2	-	22	370	T Stefanovic	POR	3.4	-	2	544	M Brown	TOT	3.8	9	43	721	M Kezman	CHE	6.8	4	50	
123	G Kiraly	CRY	4.2	3	41	371	P Pasanen	SOT	3.4	-	0	545	L Hendrie	AVL	3.7	-	58	722	P Klavert	NEW	6.8	6	52	
124	C Berthelin	CRY	4.1	-	0	372	J Fortune	WBA	3.4	-	0	546	L Hendrie	AVL	3.7	-	58	723	OG Solskjaer	MUN	6.7	-	0	
Defenders						373	T Gasdorse	WBA	3.4	-	17	547	T Hitzersperger	AVL	3.7	-	49	724	T Radzinski	FUL	6.5	1	39	
301	S Hypia	LIV	5.5	2/5	72	397	D Matteo	BLR	3.4	8	39	548	T Hitzersperger	AVL	3.7	-	49	725	J Ayegbeni	POR	6.4	1	70	
302	S Campbell	ARS	5.4	21	62	398	T el Karouk	CHA	3.4	-	7	549	M McFadden	EVN	3.7	-	20	726	J Bergkamp	MUN	6.3	14	62	
303	J Terry	CHE	5.3	-	18	399	M Mills	MAN	3.4	11	79	548	J McFadden	EVN	3.7	-	20	727	K Phillips	ARS	6.3	4	85	
304	M Silvestre	MUN	5.2	2/4	122	404	E Edman	TOT	3.4	-	49	549	S Davis	TOT	3.7	-	17	728	K Phillips	SOT	6.3	3	62	
305	W Gallas	CHE	5.1	11	96	405	N Parnat	TOT	3.4	5	73	550	S Legwinski	FUL	3.7	-	29	729	T Kanoute	TOT	6.3	14	72	
306	A Cole	ARS	5.0	11	89	406	S Charlton	NOR	3.3	-	49	551	D Harewood	LIV	3.7	3	57	730	JF Hasselbaink	BOL	6.1	3	86	
307	W Bridge	CHE	4.9	11	59	407	J Fortune	CHA	3.3	-	64	552	S McLarnan	MAN	3.7	-	19	731	D Davies	BOL	6.1	3	86	
308	G Heinze	MAN	4.8	2	81	376	M Fish	CHA	3.3	-	15	553	T Sinclair	MAN	3.7	-	15	732	A Cole	FUL	6.0	3	78	
309	R Carvalho	CHE	4.8	-	106	377	D Unsworth	CHA	3.3	-	54	554	A Svensson	SOT	3.7	3	81	733	R Fowler	MAN	6.0	6	50	
310	G Neville	MUN	4.6	2/7	72	378	B Thibault	NEW	3.3	-	97	555	R Fernandez	SOT	3.7	-	40	734	S Ameobi	NEW	6.0	3	22	
311	P Ferreira	CHE	4.4	11	123	379	C Fleming	NEW	3.3	-	10	556	J Greening	BIR	3.7	-	41	735	C Morrison	BIR	5.9	11	31	
312	K Toure	ARS	4.3	11	90	380	T Bramble	NOR	3.3	-	50	557	LP Drogba	FUL	3.7	11	59	736	C Morrison	NEW	5.9	11	31	
313	Lauren	ARS	4.3	11	103	381	M MacKay	NOR	3.3	-	97	558	L Butt	NEW	3.7	-	51	737	L Boca Morle	FUL	5.9	-	83	
314	R Ferdinand	MAN	4.3	2/4	93	382	A De Zeeuw	POR	3.3	2/2	63	559	L Garcia	LIV	3.7	-	51	738	J Stead	BIR	5.9	-	83	
315	G Barry	AVL	4.2	0	53	383	A De Zeeuw	POR	3.3	2/2	63	560	M Carrick	TOT	3.7	9	42	739	J Stead	BLR	5.8	-	23	
316	J O Shea	MUN	4.2	13	50	384	M Tanicco	SOT	3.3	-	0	561	D Johnson	BIR	3.6	12	71	740	M Bent	EVN	5.8	1	82	
317	S Hernandez	MUN	4.1	-	0	385	R Jaadi	POR	3.3	-	48	562	R Savage	BLR	3.6	12	71	741	S Narmeth	WBA	5.7	3	55	
318	G Southgate	MID	4.1	11	80	386	T Bramble	NEW	3.3	-	14	563	K Wilson	EVN	3.6	6	84	742	H Pedersen	BOL	5.6	1	51	
319	K Carroll	LIV	4.0	2/5	74	387	C Fleming	NOR	3.3	-	50	564	J Greening	WBA	3.6	3	63	743	B Huckerby	FUL	5.6	3	36	
320	J Carragher	LIV	4.0	2/5	74	388	C Fleming	NOR	3.3	-	50	565	D Francis	NOR	3.6	6	74	744	S Narmeth	MID	5.6	4	47	
321	M Reiziger	MID	4.1	21	23	389	D Prunus	CRY	3.2	-	0	566	E Berkevic	POR	3.6	1/1	42	745	R Ormrod	SOT	5.6	-	4	
322	C Raigner	LIV	4.0	2/5	73	390	M MacKay	NOR	3.3	-	97	567	S Stones	POR	3.6	3/3	45	746	D Bentley	NOR	5.5	3	49	
323	U Ehinig	MID	4.0	3	105	391	B Haux	WBA	3.2	-	11	568	P Mendes	TOT	3.6	4	67	747	J Kanu	WBA	5.5	3	55	
324	L King	TOT	4.0	5	105	392	G Barrowdale	CRY	3.2	-	0	569	M Nilsson	SOT	3.6	1	26	748	R Earnshaw	WBA	5.5	1	48	
325	O Mielberg	AVL	3.9	0	102	393	R Scimeca	WBA	3.0	-	27	568	J Gray	BLR	3.5	4	52	749	M Pahars	SOT	5.4	-	0	
326	M Upton	BIR	3.9	11	83	394	G Barrowdale	CRY	3.0	-	0	569	S Giannakopoulos	BOL	3.5	3	59	750	N Ventola	CRY	5.4	-	5	
327	F Quendru	MID	3.9	6	38	395	R Scimeca	WBA	3.0	-	27	570	L Clark	FUL	3.5	0	750	J Johansson	CHA	5.3	1/1	84		
328	O Bernard	NEW	3.9	0	38	396	S Pires	ARS	5.5	6	121	571	P Muljine	BOL	3.5	14	0	751	R Fuller	BLR	5.2	3	54	
329	C Lundekvam	SOT	3.9	-	40	502	F Lampard	MUN	5.4	17	161	572	G Speed	FUL	3.5	3	70	752	J D Job	MID	5.2	9	37	
330	M Svensson	SOT	3.8	-	0	503	S Gerrard	LIV	5.3	11/9	99	573	D Prunus	SOT	3.5	3	36	753	D Yorke	BIR	5.2	-	8	
331	A Goma	FUL	3.8	-	11	504	R Liggins	MUN	5.2	3/9	99	574	R Neville	MUN	3.4	-	11	754	S Bartlett	CHA	5.1	-	35	
332	Z Knight	FUL	3.8	-	37	505	D Duff	CHE	5.1	17	105	575	P Bloyner	NEW	3.4	-	11	755	L McKenzie	NOR	5.1	1	36	
333	A Hughes	NEW	3.8	-	42	506	P Scholtes	MUN	5.0	3/25	114	576	R Delap	SOT	3.4	-	66	756	J Jeffers	CHA	5.1	1	37	
334	J Dodd	SOT	3.8	-	5	507	F Ljungberg	MUN	4.9	9	70	577	P Muljine	NOR	3.4	-	66	757	P McVeigh	NOR	4.9	1	20	
335	S Carr	NEW	3.8	-	44	508	L Robert	NEW	4.8	1	72	578	R Teller	WBA	3.3	-	68	758	L Osman	EVN	5.1	1	53	
336	J Lloyd Samuel	AVL	3.7	0	69	509	S Dyer	NEW	4.6	4	26	579	A Johnson	WBA	3.4	0	11	759	G Horsfield	WBA	5.0	-	23	
337	H Hirdsdrass	CHA	3.7	-	86	510	C Perkins	CHA	4.5	4	11	580	P Teller	MID	3.4	1/4	11	760	D Ferguson	EVN	4.9	1	67	
338	M Meichot	FUL	3.7	-	11	511	K Parker	CRY	4.4	-	65	581	S O'Grain	WBA	3.3	-	42	761	P McVeigh	NOR	4.9	1	20	
339	S Stubbs	EVN	3.7	8	114	512	D Murphy	CHA	4.4	-	65	582	N O'Grain	WBA	3.3	-	64	762	N Shipperley	CRY	4.8	-	0	
340	JA Riese	LIV	3.7	5	86	513	S Wright-Phillips	MAN	4.3	6	121	583	S O'Grain	WBA	3.3	-	64	763	K Svensson	NOR	4.8	1	49	
341	S Destrin	CRY	3.7	11	51	514	S Wright-Phillips	MAN	4.3	6	121	584	R Cernigliaro	CRY	3.2	1	35	764	R Roudledge	CRY	4.7	4	42	
342	D Brown	MUN	3.7	-	56	515	E Juel	CHA	4.2	-	56	601	A Rinalhati	CRY	3.2	1	35	765	D Wroot	CRY	4.7	4	42	
343	M Taylor	POR	3.7	3/2	28	516	E Juel	CHA	4.2	-	56	602	Z Black	CRY	3.1	-	0	766	P Crouch	SOT	4.6	8	18	
344	G Le Sax	TOT	3.7	-	37	516	G Mendicino	MID	4.2	-	58	583	T Black	CRY	3.1	-	0	767	R Hulse	WBA	4.5	2	2	
345	C Gomer	TOT	3.7	-	37	517	R Mendicino	MID	4.2	-	58	584	S Derry	CRY	3.0	-	9							
402	Josemi	LIV	3.7	0	23	518	A Robies	CHE	4.1	12	81													
403	F Hierro	BOL	3.6	11	62	519	S Davies	TOT	4.1	-	18													







victory after seamer stuns the Proteas

# IS BOK IN BUSINESS



**HEAD BOY:** Simon Jones is mobbed by his England colleagues after bowling Thami Tsolekile

Shaun Pollock's pad.

Andrew Hall just kept out Jones' hat-trick ball but 10 overs later he outwitted young wicketkeeper Thami Tsolekile with a slower ball which clipped the rookie's off-stump.

Then he grabbed his fourth wicket with another lbw decision, this time against Proteas quickie Makhaya Ntini, while South Africa's demise was complete two overs later when Hall was ludicrously run out off a no-ball after

taking on Graham Thorpe's throw from the deep. But any thought of England having an easy time as they chased the 142 to win was soon dispelled.

## Fortunate

First, Marcus Trescothick fell to the first delivery of the innings, edging Pollock behind to Tsolekile off the toe-end of his bat. Then Butcher was fortunate not to follow from the very next delivery as the whole South Africa side went up for leg before. But,

just as in the first innings, England's No.3 was out to a poor stroke soon after when he chased a wide one from Ntini and edged to Smith's safe hands at first slip.

That was 11-2 and England's position was looking dicey.

But the composed Vaughan teamed up with Strauss to defy South Africa for 52 minutes, until the captain got a brute of a delivery from young fast bowler Dale Steyn which swung into him and then

seamed away to remove his off-stump.

Thorpe then came to the crease alongside assured opener Andrew Strauss, who added an unbeaten 51 to his first-innings century.

## SCOREBOARD

**PORT ELIZABETH:** England with 7 second innings wickets standing, need a further 49 runs to win.

**ENGLAND:** First Innings 425 (A Strauss 126, M Butcher 79)

**Second Innings**  
Trescothick c Tsolekile b Pollock 0  
Strauss not out 51  
Butcher c Smith b Ntini 0  
Vaughan b Steyn 15  
Thorpe not out 23  
Lbws nb! 4  
Total (3 wkts, 31 overs) 63  
Fall: 0, 11, 50.

**Bowling:** Pollock 7-2-22-1, Ntini 6-1-16-1, Hall 8-1-14-0, Steyn 4-1-15-1, Smith 5-0-23-0.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First Innings 337 (H Dippenaar 110, J Rudolph 93)

**Second Innings**  
(Overnight: 99-2)  
Smith c S Jones b Flintoff 55  
Kallis lbw S Jones 61  
Dippenaar b Giles 10  
de Bruyn c Trescothick b Flintoff 19  
Pollock c G Jones b S Jones 0  
Hall run out 17  
Tsolekile b S Jones 4  
Ntini lbw S Jones 4  
Steyn not out 2  
S4 b3 w1 nb5 pens 5 19  
Total (69.1 overs) 229  
Fall (cont): 152, 168, 201, 201, 217, 218, 224.

**Bowling:** Giles 15-2-39-2, Hoggar 12-2-38-1, Hammon 14-1-54-0, Flintoff 15-2-47-2, S Jones 13-1-38-4.

## me up

get at least that far ahead to put some serious pressure on England.

"We haven't played anything like as well as we would have liked and we have still competed."

"We'll be fighting, there are still 49 runs to get - and I'm sure some of the guys will open the curtains in the morning to see if it's still raining!"

**KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES:** Simon and Geraint (left)



## TEXT MANIACS

Text Dssport followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

☐ NOTHING in text maniacs off Blues for months now suddenly loads last week. bruce out savage out 1 game changes the lot. jason A.V.F.C.

☐ To hoggy. Stockport aint in manchester its in cheshire as 4 mcf daz dnt make me laff u blues r parttime clowns.

**Dave moston.**

☐ To the latics fan its 1st rate sport in wigan,as u can c we've already sold over 6000 season tickets with 2 months to start of super league.

**carl aka marra.**

☐ all mackems are bin-men and all smoggies are kerb crawlers!

**geordies rule, howay toon! Geordie Loyal.**

☐ N e other blades think pigs n rother-ham shud merge cud call em PORKHAM F.C. Aaron, Laughin Blade.

☐ i'm a fellow Wiganer but get real this town Luv rugby and that will never change even if u were in prem. rugby Lge fan.

☐ 2 ste wafc. come 2 hull and call us neanderthal u football nancy-boy forklift phil.

☐ HAPPY XMAS 2 FOOTY FANS 1 AND ALL XCEPT GAZ AT TRFC HE WILL B A NOBBY NO MATES TART WOTEVA THE TIME OV YEAR CHEERS. JOANIE EFC.

☐ ive only been 1 game this season but keano is the king red army roy the red Hampshire.

☐ wen woz last time mackems in europe, jealousy is an awful thing. richie BORO.

☐ something tells me the mags 50 year wait will go on. well done souness. BORO BOB.

☐ wots all this rubbish ova ull never walk alone. remember the 1 game after hillsboro celtic v liverpool emotional. joe.

☐ SAILOR BOY! Paul plymouth. SORT UR HEAD OUT RUGBY LG FASTA & BETA DAN UNION BY FAR. TINKA ST. HELENS.

☐ why do teams like charlton, fulham etc bring about 800 fans to man city but take over 3000 to man utd? Goes to show all cockneys luv man u! deano mcf.

☐ callum The reason liverpool n celtic sing u'll never walk alone is cos there all Irish tramps. S.U.F.C.

☐ stuart pearce for forest job. he is the only man who cares. forest4ever. Brian. Nott.m.

☐ Mojo u wont b sayin poor old Man City on derby day when we rag u red scum AGAIN.

**Walkerchild.**

☐ To browny of sunderland. We ended up at newcastle didnt know there was another club up there. fozzie whulf.

☐ Get rid of Souness or he will kill us just like he did to Blackburn. Bring back Keegan.

**Mushy. Nufc.**

☐ to all geordie scum you should have stuck with the old man.

**ward safe.**

☐ newcastle you're not very good. ftm.

**JIMMY SAFC.**

☐ 35,000 against pompey and the scousers want a 60,000 stadium. get some night flights from oslo and you might have a chance. Chelsea boys - local and loyal. TIM L.

☐ stan ternent, we can't understand him but we're still staying up. c'mon gills. big eric.

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**SERIOUSLY football**

## Carr's drive for England

# I'LL KNOW SVEN IT'S RIGHT

by DAVID WOODS

**MARTIN JOL** may be tipping Michael Carrick for England – but the Spurs midfielder insists an international return is not even on his mind.

Dutchman Jol has claimed Carrick has what it takes to play the holding midfield role for England. The Spurs boss said: "Michael's one of the most complete midfield players I have seen in my life."

"He can pass the ball, he is skilful, he works for the team and closes people down."

"I heard in the past he was maybe considered as a luxury player but from what I've seen of him, he is a real Tottenham player with a top mentality."

Carrick, 23, picked up the last of his two caps in a friendly defeat to Holland more than three years ago, ironically at White Hart Lane. *Since then the former West Ham star has disappeared off the international map.*

But following the resignation of Jacques Santini, Carrick – a £2.75m buy from the Hammers – has flourished under Jol, who has inspired a Tottenham revival.

### Praise

Yet despite Jol's praise, Carrick insists he is still off his best and revealed he hadn't even been aware England boss Sven Goran Eriksson was at White Hart Lane on Saturday to see Tottenham thump Southampton 5-1.

Carrick said: "I just played my normal game and hopefully the right people will see the right things."

"Getting back into the England set-up hasn't been too much in my mind. I've just been wanting to do well and get a bit of confidence."

"Hopefully, if I do that, I can start thinking about England."

"But for now, I just want to help get some results for Tottenham and improve."

"It's great when the gaffer has belief in you. It gives you a lot more confidence and I've much more responsibility on my shoulders now."

"Hopefully, I can thrive on that and it'll make me a better player. I don't think I'm back to my best – there's still a lot of room for improvement."

"I always want to do better. I don't think you'll ever be perfect as a footballer."



**PICK MICK:** But Carrick is happy to wait for his recall.

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## Vid back blow

**HIGH-FLYING** Middlesbrough could be without star striker Mark Viduka over the festive period.

Steve McClaren's side face Birmingham and Norwich before a Riverside showdown with Manchester United.

But Viduka is struggling after he injured his back during Saturday's 3-0 win over Aston Villa, which strengthened Boro's hold on fifth place.

The Aussie was forced off at half-time and with the hip injury which ruled him out for a month earlier this term still causing discomfort, the odds are against McClaren being able to field his first-choice strikeforce.







## SOCCER LINES

■ SCOTLAND have slipped to 86th place in the latest FIFA world rankings – meaning they are now behind the likes of Burkina Faso, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

■ THE FA have launched an investigation into the violent scenes which marred the 1-1 draw between Leeds and Millwall on Sunday after West Yorkshire Police made 10 arrests due to fighting inside Elland Road.

■ BLACKBURN'S Craig Short looks certain to be ruled out of the festive programme because of a hamstring injury he suffered against Everton at the weekend.

■ BARNSELY'S Nicky Wroe has signed a new two-and-a-half year deal to keep him at Oakwell.

■ HUNGARIAN international Zsolt Baranyos has confirmed he is still poised to sign for Leeds.

■ READING striker Dave Kitson has been ruled out for up to two months after damaging his knee.

■ DARREN POWELL has ended his loan spell with West Ham and could be back in the Crystal Palace squad for the Boxing Day game against Portsmouth.

■ SHEFFIELD United manager Neil Warnock has turned to Hearts marksman Mark de Vries, 29, in his search for a new striker.

■ BURY striker David Nugent, who has bagged 13 goals for the League Two outfit this season, has been offered a new deal to keep him at Gigg Lane, following interest from Wigan, Crewe and Preston.

■ NEW Oxford boss Ramon Diaz has taken his sons Emiliano, 21, and 18-year-old Michael on trial.

■ BARNSELY chairman Peter Ridsdale has agreed to step down following a financial disagreement with some of his board members.

■ TOTTENHAM will sign David Limbersky, 21, from Czech side Viktoria Plzen on loan, with the option of a permanent switch at the end of the season.

## SERIOUSLY football

# Transfer window is crucial for

# SOUEY

■ ANFIELD AGONY: A grim-faced Souness after Newcastle's latest flop at Liverpool on Sunday



**FREDDY SHEPHERD will resist the calls of a minority of the Toon Army to axe Graeme Souness, just three months into his Newcastle reign.**

And justifiably so. For despite the Geordies' alarming slump down the table – culminating in Sunday's depressing 3-1 defeat at Liverpool – only the Scot's most blinkered critics would deny him the chance to spend the cash the Newcastle chairman has promised when the transfer window reopens next week.

Souness' appointment as Sir Bobby Robson's successor came too late for him to bring in his own players, leaving him to work with the squad he inherited.

Fans are split on who is to blame for Newcastle's current problems. Those who want the manager sacked are probably matched by those who claim Robson is primarily responsible for the club's predicament.

**But most hold views somewhere in between.**

Though few had Souness at the top of their wanted list in the autumn, they are prepared to reserve judgement until the end of the season, when he has had the chance to stamp his own identity on the squad. What is not in question is that Newcastle have gone backwards under his management. Again, opinion is divided, with some insisting poor results at the end of last season prove the decline had already set in.

### Optimism

The anti-Souness camp counter by claiming bizarre team selections, bad tactics and a confrontational management style are to blame for the current mess.

And the former Liverpool boss's own words hardly help his cause, because he has become a victim of his own optimism.

On arrival at St James' Park, he announced he was the luckiest man in the world to inherit a squad bristling with talent, claiming Robson had done such a good job that only fine-tuning was required.

The soundbites gradually became less upbeat, with Souness saying – not without good cause – that with such glaring defensive inadequacies, he was working with a horribly ill-balanced squad.

And while he has not gone so far as to openly criticise the man he replaced, last week he came close by arguing that if the squad had been good enough, Robson would still be in charge. Yet the

by IAN MURTAGH

Souness era started with a nine-match unbeaten run.

But, in hindsight, that early form was misleading, with three UEFA Cup wins against Sakthnin (twice) and Panionios, and Premiership successes over Southampton, West Brom and Manchester City.

The 4-3 win over City on October 24 was the Toon's last at St James' Park and it is a worrying statistic that of the five clubs they have beaten in the league, Kevin Keegan's side – in 10th place – are the only one currently in the top half of the table.

Newcastle still see themselves as members of the "Big Five". Yet whenever they have played one of their so-called peers they have lost, often heavily.

### Repair

Shepherd is adamant that a club who have become accustomed to competing in Europe cannot afford a season of transition and Souness is under no illusions.

Nevertheless, even tough taskmaster Shepherd must acknowledge that with Newcastle nearer the relegation zone than the top six, the months ahead are more about repair and revival than reward.

Souness has already earmarked Glasgow Rangers' Jean Alain Boumsong and Abdoulaye Meite of Marseille as the two centre-halves he wants to bolster a defence which

## SOUEY'S TOON RECORD

Sakthnin (h).....UEFA Cup	W	2-0	Crystal Palace (a).....League	W	2-0
Southampton (a).....League	W	2-1	Sochaux (a).....UEFA Cup	W	4-0
West Brom (h).....League	W	3-1	Everton (a).....League	D	1-1
Sakthnin (a).....UEFA Cup	W	3-1	Chelsea (a).....League	L	1-4
Birmingham (a).....League	D	2-2	Portsmouth (h).....League	D	1-1
Charlton (a).....League	D	1-1	Sp Lisbon (h).....UEFA Cup	M	1-1
Panionios (a).....UEFA Cup	W	3-0	Liverpool (a).....League	L	1-2
Man City (h).....League	W	4-0			
Norwich (h).....Carling Cup	W	2-1			
Bolton (a).....League	L	1-2			
D Tait (h).....UEFA Cup	W	2-0			
Fulham (h).....League	L	1-2			
Chelsea (h).....Carling Cup	L	1-2			
Man United (h).....League	L	1-3			

### NEWCASTLE'S FORM THIS SEASON

Overall	P	W	D	L
Premier League	21	10	8	3
League (since Oct 31)	8	1	2	5

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## Harry's Knapp hand

SOUTHAMPTON boss Harry Redknapp admitted last night he faces the toughest test of his 22-year managerial career to keep his new side in the Premiership.

Redknapp cannot wait for the transfer window to open in the New Year, when he hopes to recruit at least five new players.

He said: "I need players in to get us out of this mess. I will have to beg, steal or borrow a few because this group would not even get us out of the Championship.

■ by PETER WHITE

We are in a real dogfight. "I have lots of targets, loads of people in mind who I would like to get – it is just a case of trying to get them without spending any real money."

### Difficult

The 5-1 hammering at Tottenham left Saints deep in the relegation mire. Redknapp said: "Our points total of 13 at this stage of the season is pretty

horrendous. To get to 38 points is going to be very difficult. A few other clubs are in a similar position and none of us have averaged a point of game so far.

"It has all come as a bit of a shock because before I got the job I didn't really take too much notice of this club.

"Finding out we might not see defender Michael Svensson again this season because of injury is a massive blow because he is a fantastic player."



UPHILL BATTLE: Harry Redknapp



# Newcastle boss as clouds gather on the Tyne

# WON'T BE RUN OUT OF TOON



## THEN AND NOW

GRAEME SOUNESS has changed his stance since taking over the Toon hot-seat from Sir Bobby Robson.

Here, *StarSport* traces how the new Toon boss – and his chairman Freddy Shepherd – have gradually attempted to temper remarks made when Souness was appointed back in September.

### SEPTEMBER 13

SOUNESS: "This is the best job I have ever had in terms of quality of players and I feel a very lucky man."

"Usually when you get a big job like this, the club has problems. But it's different here because everything is in place."

"It is certainly not a club in turmoil because Sir Bobby Robson has left it in great shape."

"I have inherited a talented squad which just needs a bit of fine-tuning."

SHEPHERD: "This season is not about transition. There is plenty to play for and that is not negotiable."

"All the ingredients are in place to win something. Hopefully, that will happen under Graeme."

### OCTOBER 20

SOUNESS: "Things have got to change. This club is making headlines for the wrong reasons and that has to be addressed."

"From the outside looking in, there were obvious problems here. There were too many non-football issues and it cannot go on."

### DECEMBER 15

SOUNESS: "If this squad was good enough, the last manager would still be here."

"I'm left using square pegs in round holes but this is the squad I inherited."

"I haven't suddenly woken up this morning realising what we need. 'Stats tell us where our strengths and weaknesses."

"It doesn't take a genius to work out where we need to improve."

SHEPHERD: "At the moment our Premiership position is disappointing and we have to improve on that and improve on that we will."

"Graeme knows as well as I do that certain areas of the team need strengthening."

"But he only came into this club in September after the last transfer window had closed, so he has been unable to sign any players."

### DECEMBER 20

SOUNESS: "We find ourselves in a difficult situation, we have got to stand up and be counted."

"We'll see what we're made of in the coming weeks."

"We're under no illusions as to what is expected of us."

ACE MILAN: Baros slots home Liverpool's third as Newcastle crashed 3-1 at Anfield on Sunday



has creaked badly this season.

Signing Frenchmen for Newcastle is a risky business, however.

Players like David Ginola, Alain Goma, Didier Domi and Stephane Guivarc'h all left in acrimonious circumstances, while Laurent Robert and Olivier Bernard both look set to

follow in the footsteps of their compatriots.

The odds are stacked against Souness succeeding in his first mission – to bring silverware to St James' Park this season, even though Newcastle should reach the UEFA Cup quarter-finals and are drawn against non-league Yeading in the third round of the FA Cup. But he dare

not fail in his second, which is to strengthen the squad significantly in the New Year.

Robson's transfer record was hit and miss and Souness is still paying the price for some of his missteps. But he cannot afford any duds of his own.

The transfer freeze might have hampered him on the pitch but it has protected

him from further criticism off it.

So the jury is out on Souness' Toon prospects, for now.

*But if the doom and gloom which has enveloped Tyneside this Christmas has not been swept away by the end of the season, Newcastle may be looking for a third manager inside 12 months.*

## SACCHI MOVES IN

DAVID BECKHAM and Michael Owen could soon be playing under a new boss with Real Madrid set to unveil Arrigo Sacchi today.

The ex-Italian team boss and European Cup winner with AC Milan will be named as the club's new football supremo.

Sources say he will have the same powers as Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United – but won't sit on the bench.

## SPORTWORD

- ACROSS**
- Chris ....., Southampton and Northern Ireland defender (5)
  - ...., Cats, Sunderland nickname (5)
  - ...., Ehlolu, Middlesbrough and England defender (5)
  - Granville ....., Champion Hurdle winner in 1993 (5)
  - John ....., West Ham United and Ipswich Town manager (5)
  - Dublin, Leicester City's former England striker (4)
  - See 21 across.
  - Carl ....., Kent, Lancashire and West Indies batsman (6)
  - The Red ....., Lincoln City nickname (4)
  - D'Oliveira, former England cricket all-rounder (5)
  - Sunderland forward, on loan to Leeds United (5)
  - and 11 across. Sport of Belfast Giants (3,6)
  - Rugby's Heineken Cup winners in 1997 (5)
  - ...., Armstrong, famous US cyclist (5)
- DOWN**
- Gordon ....., two British golfers identified as Senior and Junior (5)
  - West Brom and Japan forward (7)
  - Richard ....., former British and European heavyweight champion (4)
  - ...., Wanderers, Premiership club (6)
  - ...., Guevara, Mexican athlete, silver medalist in the women's 400 metres at the Athens Olympics (3)
  - ...., Holmes, athlete who won two Olympic gold medals in 2004 (5)
  - ...., Park, Sunbury-on-Thames race course (7)
  - ...., Law, equestrian gold medalist at the 2004 Olympics (6)
  - Aftab ....., Leicestershire's former Essex and England batsman (5)
  - ...., Blanco, famous France rugby full-back (5)
  - ...., Murphy, Ireland wing forward who played for the '59 and '66 Lions (4)
  - ...., Lanka, cricket World champions in 1996 (3)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 51 for Monday's answers.



## 5 FOR FUN

- Which golfer in 2004 finished second in the Masters and the Open, fourth in the US PGA and ninth in the US Open?
- Who is the former Sheffield Wednesday, Barnsley and Bristol City manager, who has just taken charge of Milton Keynes Don's?
- In which country will football's World Cup Finals be played in 2006?
- In which town or city do Gloucestershire stage an annual cricket festival at a school ground?
- Horse racing's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe is always held in which month of the year?

ANSWERS: See Page 51

## Zajec all set for Pompey

by PETER WHITE

PORTSMOUTH executive director Velimir Zajec is expected to be reluctantly confirmed as the club's new manager today.

However, Pompey chairman Milan Mandaric admitted last night there was still work to be done to convince the former coach of Panathinaikos to succeed Harry Redknapp – with talks going on late into the night.

Mandaric, who has turned to Zajec after Gordon Strachan decided against a switch to Pompey, said: "There are still some issues to be sorted and I do not want to take advantage of the friendship I have with Velimir."

### Agree

"He did not come here to be the manager but at this particular time I am trying to convince him that it would be best for the club."

"If Velimir decides he would rather not be the manager, we shall have to look elsewhere."

"But I am hoping he will agree to it, even if we have to reach a compromise with his appointment."

## Al: Let's pair up

by SCOTT COLEMAN

ALAN Mahon is back at Ipswich tonight aiming to keep Wigan on top of the Championship table – but he is still tipping Joe Royle's men for promotion.

Mahon, 26, was a big hit when he spent three happy months on loan at Portman Road last season.

But Royle did not have the cash for a permanent deal and Wigan snapped him up from Blackburn.

Mahon said: "Both clubs have what it takes to win promotion and if I had my way, we will both go up."

Wigan boss Paul Jewell – facing his old mate Royle – said: "Joe's a smashing manager – a wily old fox – and he's got some real good players."

## Freddie all-clear

by DANNY FULLBROOK

FREDDIE Ljungberg will be back in action on Boxing Day after his brain scare.

The Swede had to have a brain scan after being hit with a serious bout of migraine.

He was given the all-clear but told he had returned to training too quickly which brought on a second severe headache. But Ljungberg will be back in training today after two weeks out and is in the squad to face Fulham at the weekend.

That is a big boost for Arsene Wenger, who will be without Jose Antonio Reyes for 10 days due to a knee injury.



## Villa's Parker blow

by DAVE ARMITAGE

DAVID O'LEARY'S hopes of landing Scott Parker in the January transfer window have suffered a setback.

Aston Villa boss O'Leary was preparing a £6m bid for the Chelsea midfielder next month but Parker has suffered a broken metatarsal that looks like keeping him on the sidelines for two months.

Parker was at the top of O'Leary's list of players along with

Southampton's James Beattie and Spurs' Robbie Keane.

The England man, who had come on as a substitute, limped off against Norwich on Saturday complaining of serious pain to the Chelsea physios.

Parker ended up playing out the rest of the match, but was taken for an X-ray at the end where his worst fears were confirmed.

## Giggs in a fight over new deal

by BILL THORNTON

RYAN GIGGS is on a collision course with Manchester United over his contract dispute. United have offered the 31-year-old only a one-year extension. Giggs wants two years, taking him to 2008. And he is digging in his heels.

Harry Swales, Giggs' career-long adviser, said last night: "I don't think a one-year extension is enough for someone who has been there for so long and given so much to the club."

"Ryan is fit and so dedicated and 31 is no age at all. You can't buy the experience and enthusiasm he has."

Giggs is United's most decorated player, having been in the first team for 14 seasons and a key part of the success of the Sir Alex Ferguson years.

Although clubs at home and abroad are monitoring the situation, Swales said: "I can't envisage Ryan going anywhere and he doesn't want to go. But I haven't heard anything more since I got a letter from the club a while ago saying they would only offer a 12-month extension. The ball is in their court."

The fact is the club's plc board does not believe in giving extensions of more than one year to players over 30.

● JONATHAN Spector is leaving United on loan — and West Brom are favourites to take him.

Ferguson confirmed yesterday he is letting the young American defender go next month. "We feel he is ready for the challenge."

Former United skipper Bryan Robson asked Fergie several weeks ago — as reported in Starsport — if he could take him.

### Dire

Now he is set to get his wish and not a moment too soon for West Brom — battered 4-0 by derby rivals Birmingham on Saturday — are in dire need of some quality at the back.

Meanwhile, Ruud van Nistelrooy's six-week injury lay-off, coupled with Wayne Rooney's penalty miss against Palace, has put Ferguson on the spot.

Van Nistelrooy has taken 29 of the 34 penalties United have had since his transfer from PSV in 2001, scoring 26 of them.

● United have confirmed that American business tycoon Malcolm Glazer has made revisions to the tentative offer to take over the club which was snubbed by chief executive David Gill. But United have stated Glazer's proposition is 'very preliminary' and they will not re-open negotiations until he puts in a definitive proposal.

## SERIOUSLY football Ronaldinho sticks the boot in by

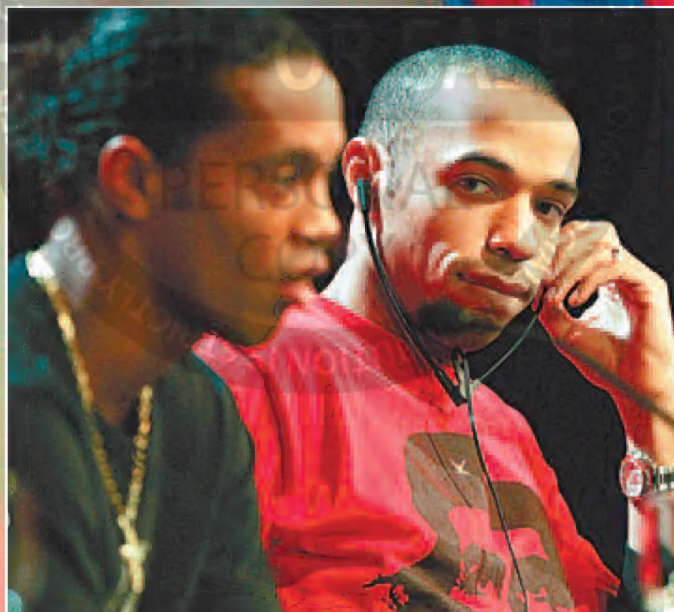
### RON FACTFILE

1980: Born Ronaldo de Assis Moreira in Porto Alegre, Brazil on March 21.  
1998: Signs for his hometown club Grêmio.  
1999: June: Makes international debut for Brazil against Latvia, and goes on to announce himself to the world in the Copa America with a stunning solo goal against Venezuela — his first for his country. Brazil go on to win the tournament.  
2001: January: Makes dream move to Europe to play for Paris Saint Germain.  
2002: July: Helps Brazil to World Cup glory in South Korea and Japan, dumping England out in the quarter-final with a free-kick before being sent off on route to the final.  
2003: July: Moves to Barcelona for £18m despite the advances of Manchester United.  
2004: June: After a hugely successful season, Barca hand Ronaldinho an improved contract which raises his buy-out clause from £66m to £100m after Chelsea reportedly enquire about his services. December 20: Named FIFA's World Player of the Year.

### HOW THEY VOTED

1 Ronaldinho (Barcelona & Brazil) 620 points (89 first places, 47 second, 34 third).  
2 Thierry Henry (Arsenal & France) 552 pts (73 first places, 42 second, 31 third).  
3 Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan & Ukraine) 253 pts (34 first places, 19 second, 26 third).

■ **BRAZIL-IANT:**  
Samba star Ronaldinho celebrates one of the many goals which have propelled Barcelona to the top of La Liga this season



SO NEAR: Henry eyes up Ronaldinho during yesterday's Press conference

## Mour: You're Joaquin

by DAVID WOODS

CHELSEA have pulled out of signing Spanish winger Joaquin after boss Jose Mourinho decided his personality wouldn't fit in.

Starsport can reveal the Portuguese manager runs in-depth checks on the character of any potential signing and wasn't convinced Joaquin was right for the club.

### Stickler

Joaquin has a reputation in Spain for enjoying a party and Mourinho — a stickler for good behaviour — has opted not to pursue his interest in the Real Betis star.

A Chelsea source said: "Whoever he buys has to have a good attitude and he's as concerned about the influence they have in the dressing-room as on the pitch."



insisting only Barca could have made him a prize guy

# I SNUBBED FERGIE TO BE BEST IN WORLD

**RONALDINHO** last night insisted his snub to Manchester United and the Premiership was the key reason behind him being crowned FIFA's World Player of the Year.

The Brazilian superstar pipped Arsenal's Thierry Henry and AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko to the award in Zurich last night.

And Ronaldinho is adamant that his decision to turn his back on Sir Alex Ferguson and other top managers in favour of a move to Barcelona sent his career soaring.

The 24-year-old was lined up for a big-money move to United but enjoyed the best year of his career at the Nou Camp in 2004 after sending Barca to the top of Spain's La Liga and into the knockout phase of the Champions League.

And he admitted after lifting the award that the decision to turn down United's advances in the summer of 2003 was the key factor.

## Choice

"I chose the right team and I feel very happy with my choice," said Ronaldinho, whose freak goal for Brazil dumped England out of the World Cup finals in 2002.

"Every day is a new surprise for me and I am very happy at Barcelona."

"I want to be part of the history at the club in a winning period of time and I feel that era is already well under way now."

*"From the first day at Barcelona I knew it was perfect for me. Every day they do something that feels like a surprise. I'm always happy and have never had any doubts."*

Ronaldinho became the fourth Brazilian to be named World Player of the Year after Romario, Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

He collected 620 points in the voting – made by coaches and captains of international teams – with Henry on 552 points and Ukraine hotshot Shevchenko on 253.

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson and skipper David Beckham both chose Henry as their man of the year following his goalscoring exploits in Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten run and Premiership title triumph.

But Frenchman Henry was forced to settle for the runner-up spot for a second year in succession having been beaten to the award by international team-mate and Real Madrid star Zinedine Zidane 12 months ago.

## Team

Henry was almost prevented from landing in Zurich on Sunday night after arriving late because of delays giving a urine sample following Arsenal's 1-0 win at Portsmouth.

But he made it in time and admitted: "You can never say that you are happy if you don't win,

**from JAMES DOBSON  
in Zurich**

but there are two tremendous players here.

"When I see Shevchenko playing in Serie A and Ronaldinho playing in Spain they are the guys who get you up on your feet. They are truly great."

*"But if you come here two years running that shows great consistency."*

"If I had won this I would take it straight back to the dressing room

at Highbury and give it to the team. It is a trophy for the team and I did nothing without my team-mates."

Gunnery boss Arsene Wenger admitted he was disappointed that Henry – who netted 39 times in all competitions for Arsenal last season – had missed out on the top award.

Wenger revealed: "Of course, as Arsenal manager, I feel Thierry should have won. But this takes nothing away from Ronaldinho, who is a spe-

cial player and has had a fantastic 2004."

"Thierry has had another superb year. If you look at the amount of matches he has played in 2004 for France and Arsenal and then you look at his contribution in those matches, it's remarkable."

## Special

"Not only does Thierry provide through his goals, but his consistent efficiency in matches and also the amount of assists

he creates as a striker is simply fantastic."

"The quality of his game is why he's so special, not only scoring goals but his overall contribution to the team making him a world-class team player."

*"But Ronaldinho's outstanding form – which has helped Barca to the top of La Liga – swung the vote in his favour."*

And after lifting the award, Ronaldinho said that his sights are now set on Barca's Champions

League showdown with Chelsea – and that he is not interested in a move to Stamford Bridge.

He said: "I never said that I wanted to play for Chelsea. I'm very happy where I am and want to carry on where I am."

"I hope that we can reach the final of the Champions League. We believe we can but it is a very strong competition."

No British-based player has won the award since its introduction in 1991.

## Give us Mor for hitman

by KEVIN FRANCIS

LIVERPOOL are on the verge of signing long-term target Fernando Morientes – but they will have to improve their £3.5m bid to land the Real Madrid marksman.

The Merseysiders have placed their offer for 28-year-old Morientes on the table ahead of next month's transfer window but I understand that the Spanish giants are holding out for £7m.

Morientes has been in Liverpool's sights since the summer and Anfield boss Rafa Benitez is still confident of getting the striker who has spent much of this season on the Real Madrid bench following the arrival of Michael Owen.

Officials at Madrid insist they won't budge but Liverpool may improve their offer to around £5m for the star of last season's Champions League.

## Fight

Morientes could have moved to Anfield last August as part of the deal which took Michael Owen to the Bernabeu – but decided to stay and fight for his place.

But the early departure of ex-manager Jose Camacho has left Morientes in limbo.

Benitez has made no secret of his admiration for the centre-forward, and he's been the top priority throughout the season.

While Benitez tracks Morientes, young hitman Neil Mellor has told the Liverpool manager 'you can rely on me' in the hope of securing his senior striking place.

Mellor has burst on to the Anfield season in devastating style, scoring five goals in the 11 games in which he has played a part.

Mellor admitted: "I'm conscious January is just around the corner and so it may just be that this is my last chance at Liverpool."

## Rovers bid for Robbie

from Back Page

him at a time when we need everyone pulling together.

"We might be on cloud nine as we speak after the two derby wins over Aston Villa and West Brom but we are technically still in a relegation dogfight."

"We are six points clear of the relegation zone but anyone who has a bad run can be dragged back into things at the bottom."

"Robbie is also back to his best. He was superb against both Aston Villa and West Brom after a bit of a lull and you don't want to lose him."

But former Leicester star Savage would be tempted to link up again with former Wales coach Mark Hughes and his No.2 at Ewood Park, Mark Bowen, who also worked with the national squad.



ALL THE BEST: Shevchenko, winner Ronaldinho, and Henry



# Henry in new race protest

■ from JAMES DOBSON in Zurich

**THIERRY HENRY** made his own personal stand against racism when he appeared at FIFA's World Player of the Year awards gala last night.

Henry, who was seated on second place by Barcelona's Brazilian ace Ronaldinho, wore a red Che Guevara T-shirt and a black-and-white wristband. Arsenal's French striker, who wore a smart dark suit when at the same event a year ago, said: "The wristband is just about racism. The players cannot do very much when they are on the pitch, but this is a symbol of how we feel, it is part of a campaign."

"Perhaps we can help to make the public do something. I know it is difficult, but if we can stop it for an hour-and-a-half at every match, if we can get fans to stand up and speak out, that is something good. That can be a victory."

**Fergie snub made me  
World No.1 – P54-55**

**HE NOSE HE'S SECOND BEST:** Thierry Henry shares a joke with Ronaldinho before finishing runner-up to the Brazilian ace in the FIFA World Player of the Year awards in Zurich last night

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by GEORGE SCOTT

**BLACKBURN** have launched their battle for Robbie Savage by faxing a £2.2m bid to Birmingham.

The offer went in yesterday but looks certain to be turned down flat by Birmingham boss Steve Bruce.

The Blues claimed last week that Savage is vital to their chances of continuing to climb up the Premiership table and is going nowhere.

Bruce has been critical of what he believes are behind-the-scenes moves to lure the fiery Welsh midfielder to Ewood Park.

*And now Bruce could employ tit-for-tat tactics and make a bid for Rovers striker Paul Dickov, whose family home is still in the Midlands following his transfer from Leicester.*

Blackburn are unlikely to give up the fight easily and could step up their move for the 30-year-old when the transfer window opens next month.

Despite Birmingham insisting that Savage is staying put at St Andrews, they could be tempted by an increased offer in the region of £3m.

**Clear**

Chairman David Gold has made it clear that the Blues do not want to sell Savage considering his recent return to top form, which has helped the club to wins over Aston Villa and West Brom.

**Gold insisted:** "We want to keep our best players, of which Robbie Savage is one."

"We don't want to sell him. We don't want to lose

**Turn to Page 55**



**SAVAGE:** Wanted man

## Rovers make £2.2m bid for Robbie